WEST MEDFORD NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORIC PROPERTIES SURVEY
Medford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

African Americans in West Medford: A Context Statement

Beginning in the late 1880s, a community of people of African descent began to settle on five streets between Sharon Street and the Mystic River in West Medford (Fig.1). They came from the American South, Maritime Canada, Boston and Cambridge, and some few other parts of the country and the globe. There had been an African American population in Medford since the seventeenth century, yet it seems clear that, despite the popular contention that some of the neighborhood's residents "are the direct descendants of the original African American settlers,"[1] this West Medford neighborhood included no one who had lived in the city before roughly 1885.

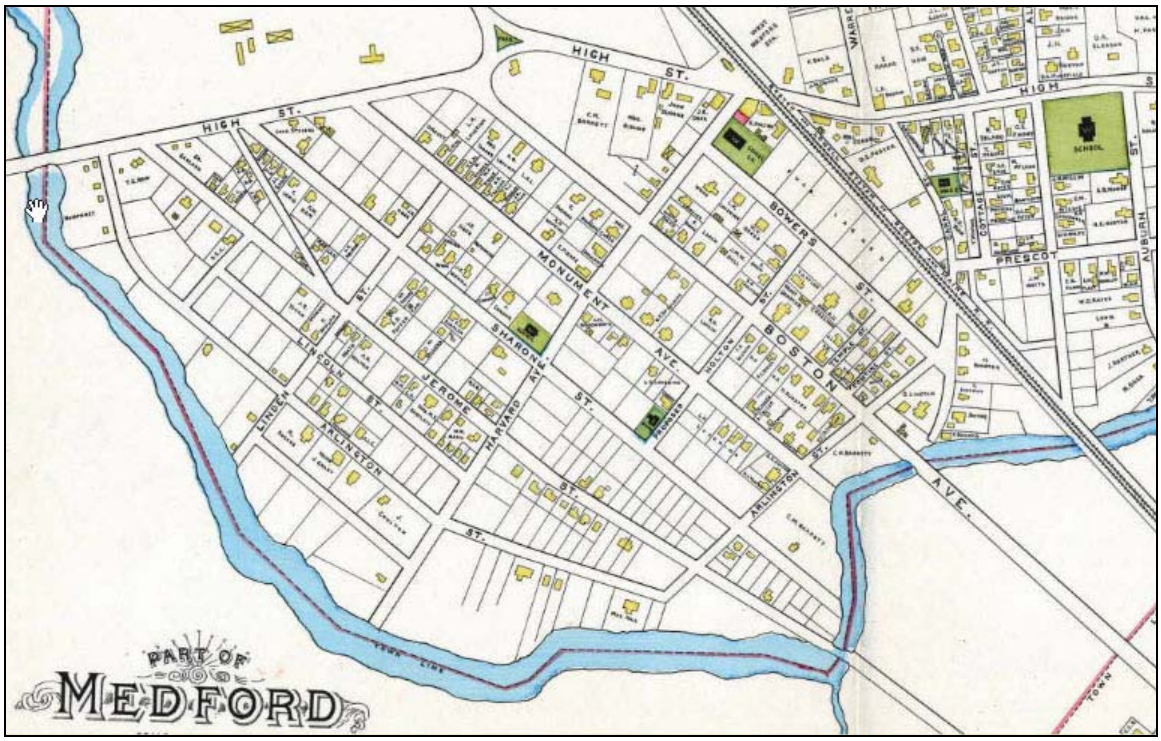

Fig.1: Map of a portion of West Medford from the 1889 Atlas of Middlesex County. Sharon Street is pictured roughly in the center running southeast from High Street to the Mystic River. African Americans tended to settle southwest of Sharon Street on Jerome, Lincoln and Arlington streets.

[1] Kristen Johnson, and Ann Noling, eds., *A Legacy Remembered: The African American Community of West Medford* (Bloomington, IN: Author House, 2012), xi.

Before the West Medford Neighborhood Emerged

As a center of shipbuilding, rum manufacture, and landed estates, Medford had a relatively large population of African descent from an early point. The census of 1754 recorded thirty-four enslaved African Americans in the town; of 172 Massachusetts towns reporting population figures in that year, Medford was tied with the southeastern Massachusetts town of Dartmouth for eleventh-largest population of color in the colony. As would remain true for well more than a century, African Americans were most populous in towns with thriving maritime trade: Boston recorded 989 enslaved African Americans in 1754, Salem eighty-three, Ipswich sixty-two, Gloucester sixty-one, Cambridge fifty-six, and Plymouth forty-three.

By 1765 Medford's population of "negroes and mulattoes" comprised forty-seven persons.[2] The greater number of these were enslaved by Isaac Royall (1677-1739), a New England-born planter, distiller, and slave trader who had come to Medford from Antigua in 1737, and his son Isaac Royall Jr. (1719-81). The "Royallville" estate included 504 acres. Between 1737 and 1775, when the Massachusetts colonial government confiscated the Loyalist Royalls' property, a total of at least sixty-four enslaved men, women, and children of African descent lived at Royallville.[3] In his 1855 history of Medford, Charles Brooks listed Isaac Royall (probably Jr.) among twenty individuals who collectively enslaved thirty-four people of African descent; Medford vital records document an additional eleven enslavers and at least twenty-four enslaved people whom Brooks did not list.[4]

By 1790, thirty-four of 1,029 residents of Medford were of African descent, fourteen of them living in their own households and twenty in the households of whites. Several early families, including those of Sampson Polly and Revolutionary War veteran Jonathan Anthony, remained in Medford at least through the turn of the nineteenth century. By 1820 their numbers had declined to ten persons, nine of them in the household of African American barber Thomas Revallion and one in the household of Isaiah Wing. Born in 1777, possibly in France, Revallion was living in Medford by 1812, when his daughter Frances died in the town. He married Bostonian Margaret Demack in Boston in 1805; one of their daughters, Marguerite, married the African American barber and abolitionist Peter M. Howard of Boston. In 1830 the Revallion household included eight of the nineteen people of African descent living

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[2] J. H. Benton Jr., *Early Census Making in Massachusetts, 1643-1763* (Boston: Charles E. Goodspeed, 1905), 12-13. Charles Brooks, *History of the Town of Medford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, from Its First Settlement in 1630 to 1855*, "revised, enlarged, and brought down to 1885 by James M. Usher" (Boston: Rand, Avery and Co., 1886), 355, states that 34 enslaved African Americans and fifteen free blacks lived in Medford in 1754, but Benton's census figures do not cite fifteen free people. Brooks also stated that the forty-nine (forty-seven, according to Benton) African Americans in Medford in 1764 were free, but he cited no authority for the assertion that they were free.

[3] Alexandra A. Chan, *Slavery in the Age of Reason: Archaeology at a New England Farm* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2007), 4, 6, 51.

[4] Brooks, *History of Medford*, 355.

in Medford; another seven were in the households of African Americans John Greenough and Prince Clary. Thomas Revallion died in Medford in 1838, and by 1860 his widow Margaret was living in a white-run boardinghouse with her daughter Rachel Russell and her husband, Philadelphia-born African American barber John E. Russell, Margaret's son Robert, a mariner, and grandsons Albert and Thomas Revallion. Margaret Revallion died in Medford in 1867, and afterward the family left the city.

In 1870, when Medford's population stood at 5,717, only ten people of African descent lived in the town, two of them in the households of whites and the rest in two African American families with no reported roots in the South. By 1880 the black population had doubled to twenty persons, and the first evidence of migration from the South is apparent in that year's census. Eleven of the twenty African Americans in Medford in that year had been born in Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire; seven were born in South Carolina, Virginia, and North Carolina; and two were born in New Brunswick and British Guiana (now Guyana). However, only six of the twenty African Americans shown in Medford in the 1880 census were listed in the 1886 city directory, and none were still living there by 1900.

The absence of directories before 1872 and of street names in censuses before 1900 makes it difficult to determine where African Americans lived before the turn of the twentieth century. West Medford African American historian Mabray Kountze stated that before 1850 most people of African descent in Medford lived east of Boston Avenue and on Bower and Canal streets, but he cited no authority for this statement.[5] From what little can be known it seems clear that there was a scant African American presence in this section of West Medford before the late 1880s. Between 1880 and 1886 at least four African American families lived east of Medford Square, three of them on what was then Riverside Avenue near Cross Street, between the north side of the Mystic River and the tracks of the Medford Branch of the Boston and Maine Railroad; another family lived on Fountain Street, north of those tracks and Salem Street. The only West Medford African Americans were the widow S. Abbie Peters and her son Edmund, who lived east of the Boston and Lowell Railroad tracks—not west of them, where the African American neighborhood later emerged. Peters, widow of hotel porter and tailor Edmund B. Peters (ca. 1832-85), a native of Warren, Maine, lived on Canal Street opposite Prescott Street, which put her house on a small slice of land between the tracks of the Boston and Lowell Railroad and the west side of Canal Street. Peters's son Edmund was a gate tender for the Boston and Lowell in 1886. Other than the Peters family the only other African Americans who have been ascribed West Medford residence were Sulk and Lucy,

[5] Mabe "Doc" Kountze, *This Is Your Heritage: A Newspaperman's Research, Sketches, Views & Comment United States, Hometown, & World History* (Medford, MA: Pothier Brothers, 1969), 408.

who according to Brooks were "the last couple of liberated slaves" in the city; they lived near High Street "in a small building, whose roof was turf," in the early 1800s.[6]

The West Medford Community

West Medford began to be laid out for suburban development soon after the Boston & Lowell Railroad was laid and a station established in that section of town. In 1845 Edmund T. Hastings and Samuel Teel mapped out much of the hillside east of the tracks with house lots. Within ten years they had created ten streets and had erected thirty-five dwelling houses, many of them on the south side of High Street.[7] Between 1850 and 1853, Gorham Brooks sold the area west of the tracks and east of the Mystic River to merchant Thomas P. Smith. Smith had married Eliza W. Smith, the daughter of wealthy Winchester merchant Ebenezer Smith; she opened Mystic Hall, an academy for girls, where High Street and the railroad intersected. Thomas P. Smith died in 1854 and his wife moved her school to Washington, D.C. As executor of his son-in-law's estate, Ebenezer Smith filed a subdivision plan in 1855, but no real development occurred by the time he died in 1864.[8]

In May 1870 three men—Dr. A. B. Story of Manchester, New Hampshire, and Samuel S. Holton and Jerome S. Judkins, both of Winchester—acquired this Smith estate from its trustees, revised the 1855 plan to accommodate smaller house lots, and hired Moses Whitcher Mann, Holton's son-in-law, to superintend the development.[9] The map of West Medford in the 1875 Middlesex County atlas shows that forty buildings had been built in the area from Sharon Street west to the river by that time. Auctions of lots in this section held in 1870 and 1871 had attracted new residents, most of them merchants and tradesmen from the Boston area.[10]

Fourteen years later, the West Medford plate in the 1889 county atlas depicted ninety-eight buildings in the area from Sharon Street to the river, most of them not labeled with owners' names (Fig.1). By this time, according to Medford historian Frank W. Lovering, who grew up at 118 Jerome Street, there were at least two African American families living in the neighborhood. The first was very likely William F. Overton, who must have settled in Medford between 1886 (that year's directory does not list him) and January 1887, when Medford is shown as his residence in the record of his marriage to Margaret Green, born in either South Carolina or the District of Columbia and then living in Arlington. Born about 1850 in North Carolina, probably in Pasquotank County, Overton was living with his parents on Staten Island in New

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[6] Brooks, *History of Medford*, 81; Kountze, *This Is Your Heritage*, 270.
[7] Charles Brooks, *History of the Town of Medford* (1855), 55.
[8] "Plan of Smith estate in West Medford," 20 October 1855, SMP 8:1.
[9] See Moses Whitcher Mann, "The Beginning of a New Village," *Medford Historical Register* 28, 2 (June 1925): 17, and Moses Whitcher Mann, "West Medford in 1870," *Medford Historical Society Papers* 8 (1904), http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A2005.05.0008%3Achapter=22.
[10] Neil Larson, "Overview of the Subdivision History of the Smith Estate in West Medford," West Medford Neighborhood Historic Properties Survey, Medford Historical Commission, September 2012.

York in 1880, and he probably came Medford with his widowed sister Martha L. Cook Overton, who married Overton's brother-in-law Joseph H. Green in 1888. Initially shown in Medford directories as a laborer living on Sherman Street, by 1895 Overton was living at 20 (later 36) Jerome Street and working as a contractor.[11]

Lovering recalled that Overton's house was two-and-a-half stories high and had a garden that ran north to Sherman Street, later occupied by a garage. Through most of the early decades of the 1900s he worked as a private estate gardener. In 1889 or 1890 Overton and his wife had adopted a daughter named Bela, whose parents had been killed in the infamous Johnstown, Pennsylvania, flood of the former year. Between 1920 and 1930 Overton moved from Jerome Street to 99 Harvard Avenue, where the directory indicates that he did odd jobs and boarded with North Carolina native George Long and his wife Alberta. According to Letitia Haskins Battles, whose father Timothy had lived on Jerome Street since the late 1890s, Overton ran "perhaps the first colored community dairy at his Jerome street home in addition to his work as a gardener and janitor."[12]

Lovering reported that the next African American family in this neighborhood was that of James Ross Young, who with his wife Amelia acquired two lots on Jerome Street, one with a dwelling on it, and a third adjacent lot fronting on Lincoln in 1887 and 1888.[13] Their home at 55 Jerome was one of three houses Moses Whitcher Mann had built on Jerome Street in 1870, and it was sold to the realtor, auctioneer, and tax clerk Henry Bailey Nottage (1838-1908) in the same year.[14] By 1886 Nottage, his wife Caroline Abbott Nottage, and their daughter Marion were living on High Street in West Medford, and the Jerome Street property changed hands three times over the next two years until the Youngs acquired it. (James R. & Amelia T. Young House, 55 Jerome St. (ca. 1870.)[15] By 1898 Young had built an L-shaped barn that occupied parts of all three lots.

Born in Mobile, Alabama, about 1859, James R. Young was living in Medford by 1889. His wife, Amelia Thompson Young, was born in Summit, Mississippi, in 1860. According to an entry that he himself may have written in an 1893 regional business

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[11] An altered building that may contain Overton's house is extant at 36 Jerome Street. He apparently owned the property.

[12] Frank W. Lovering, "Some Early Colored Residents," reprinted in Kountze, *This Is Your Heritage*, 264-65; Battles quoted in ibid., 279.

[13] Caroline W. Loring, widow, North Andover, to James R. Young, Boston, 19 September 1887, SMD 1817:67; Charles Larned, Boston, to Amelia Young, wife of James Young, Medford, 11 October 1890, SMD 2004:498. These tracts were 53, 54, and 55 (55 Jerome) on "Plan of Building Lots in W. Medford, Mass. (Being a Portion of the 'Smith Estate') to be Sold at Auction on Monday Sept 5th 1870," August 1870, SMP 17:51.

[14] Mann, "Beginning," 24.

[15] Properties for which inventory forms have been completed will be noted in the text with their addresses underlined. A complete list of inventoried properties can be found at the end of this narrative.

publication, Young was trained as a chef in Paris, worked in catering in New Orleans for nine years, and then became steward of the yacht *Gitana*, owned by William F. Weld Jr. of Boston and run by him between its launch in 1882 and his death in 1893. After establishing himself in Medford, Young "built up a business that is very extensive, and is even more notable for its character than its extent, among his regular patrons being some of the leading families of Medford, Winchester, Woburn, Stoneham and Malden," the 1893 publication noted. He specialized in French and Creole cuisine but also had "an unsurpassed way of preparing Sultana Roll and Biscuit Tortuni"; his ice creams and sherbets had "an unsurpassed reputation for uniform excellence and delicacy of flavor." Young advertised that he would prepare and deliver "Ices, Harlequins, Bomb Glaces . . . in quantities to suit."[16] According to Kountze, Young ran a "famous delicatessen and Ice Cream parlor" at 55 Jerome in a "sizeable basement store-front with shop space that extended all the way to the back," and he catered numerous weddings and parties in the area.[17]

In 1896, two years after Amelia Young died in Cushing Sanitarium in Boston, Young married Mary Leila Moore in New Orleans and then returned to Massachusetts. He was by then operating "dining rooms" at 15 Bow Street in Cambridge, on the edge of Harvard Square. Born in New Orleans in 1871, Mary Leila Moore was the sister-in-law of the famed African American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar (1871-1906).[18] James and Mary Young had four children in Medford—Leila Ruth in 1897, Ethel Corinne in 1899, Pauline Alice in 1900, Lawrence Theodore in 1901, but the family appears to have left Medford by 1902.[19]

The Overtons and Youngs represent the earliest of the large segment of West Medford's African American population that migrated from the South, while those of William George Butler and Henry Peters represent those African Americans who left

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[16] Mabe "Doc." Kountze, *This Is Your Heritage: A Newspaperman's Research, Sketches, Views & Comment United States, Hometown, & World History* (Medford, MA: Pothier Brothers, 1969), 319-21; *Malden, Maplewood, Wakefield, Reading, Stoneham, Medford and West Medford: Their Representative Business Men and Points of Interest* (New York: Mercantile Illustrating Company, 1893), 104.

[17] Kountze, *This Is Your Heritage*, 319, 321.

[18] Her sister, the poet and teacher Alice Ruth Moore, met Dunbar in New Orleans in 1895, and they married in March 1898. In 1900 Dunbar, then living with his wife in Washington, DC, was diagnosed with tuberculosis, and on the advice of his doctors began drinking whiskey. The Dunbars moved to Colorado, but they separated in 1902, and he returned to his native Dayton, Ohio, to be cared for by his mother; he died there in 1906 at the age of thirty-three.

[19] Lovering, "Some Early Colored Residents," stated his belief that Young worked in Medford for thirty years, but there is no evidence of his presence after 1902, and what became of him is not yet known. By December 1901 Young had defaulted on his mortgage, and the house and its three lots were sold to Frank Brewster, an attorney for Benjamin Wing, who held the mortgage.[19] By 1910 his wife Mary had moved to Wilmington, Delaware, with her four children, and her mother, Patricia Moore, and her sister Ruth Moore Dunbar lived with them. Both Mary Young and Ruth Dunbar worked as high school teachers in Wilmington. The 1920 Wilmington census identifies Mary Leila Moore Young as a widow. By 1940 she had retired, and she lived in Wilmington with her daughter Pauline, a public school librarian; she died in Chicago in 1942.

Boston and Cambridge for the relatively suburban life of West Medford. Born in Boston's West End, William George Butler (1837-1919) was the son of Joseph W. Butler, who may have been born in Annapolis, Maryland, about 1803, and his wife Mary A. Thomas, a native of Middleboro. Joseph Butler worked as a waiter in Boston before the Civil War, and the couple's seven children were born in Boston between 1828 and 1846. In 1864 William George, the third eldest child, married Emma Wheeler, who was born in Nashua, New Hampshire, about 1841 and may have been Afro Indian. According to his great-grandson Stephen W. Douglas Sr., William G. Butler served in the famed 54th Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, but the only man of that name listed in Luis Emilio's chronicle of the regiment is a man born about 1841 who enlisted in Company D in Boston but was working as a farmer at the time of his enlistment; his last known address after the war was Princeton, Indiana, which indicates that he was not William George Butler of Boston and West Medford.[20] Douglas stated that Butler bought his longtime home at 40 Fairfield Street in West Medford "right after the Civil War," but there is no evidence of his having lived or owned property in Medford before 1893, when the city directory shows him at 16 Linden (now 40 Fairfield) Street.[21] Butler and his descendants remained at 40 Fairfield for more than forty more years. He is said to have been the first African American to work at the U.S. Custom House in Boston, though Boston directories indicate that he was a porter nearby, at 87 Milk Street, long occupied by Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company. Jobs at the post office or state house were often reserved for African American veterans, though they were usually employed as janitors, porters, watchmen, and messengers. Wallace Hillard Kountze, born in 1931 at 75 Jerome Street, recalled the same to have been true even decades later. "Even those who had an education were Red Cap Porters at South Station or worked at low-level jobs for the Post Office," Kountze stated.[22]

Like Butler, Henry Parmo Peters was essentially a Northerner by the time he moved to Medford, about 1893. Born at Cape of Good Hope in South Africa about 1847, Peters came (or was brought) to Virginia with his parents when he was two years old; Kountze stated that he was "raised in slavery." In January 1865 he enlisted in the Thirty-eighth U.S. Colored Infantry, formed in Virginia a year earlier, and served in Company E; the regiment took part in Union operations against Petersburg and Richmond and was moved to Texas after the fall of Richmond in April 1865. The 38th was mustered out in January 1867, and by 1871 Peters had moved to Boston, where

[20] Douglas quoted in Sharon Kennedy, *Voices of West Medford: Oral Histories from the African-American Community* (N.p., 1998), 1.
[21] On the Butler family see Franklin A. Dorman, *Twenty Families of Color in Massachusetts* (Boston: New England Historical Genealogical Society, 1998), 29-34, and Kennedy, *Voices of West Medford*, 1-3. Dorman states that two of Joseph W. Butler's sons served in the Civil War; they probably were Hiram T. (born in 1834) and either Daniel (born in 1844) or Joseph N. (born in 1828); Hiram and Daniel were both members of the Massachusetts 54th. On the 54th see Luis F. Emilio, *A Brave Black Regiment: The History of the 54th Massachusetts, 1863-1865* (1894; reprint, New York: Da Capo Press, 1995).
[22] Kennedy, *Voices of West Medford*, 54.

he married the African American widow Mary Ann Hawkins, born in Philadelphia.[23] The couple had two sons—William A. Peters, born in Boston in the early 1870s, and Clarence David Fletcher Peters, born in Cambridge in 1883. By the time the family moved to its longtime home at 47 (then 25) Arlington Street in West Medford in 1893, Peters was a clerk in the Boston post office. By 1902 the house had been moved to 17 Jerome Street to make way for the proposed extension of the Mystic Valley Parkway, ultimately built on the Arlington side of the river. In 1904 Mary Hawkins Peters died, and two years later Henry Peters married divorced domestic servant Georgianna Barrett Jackson, who was born in Granville, Virginia, and was then living in Somerville. Henry Peters died between 1925 and 1930, and by the latter year his widow Georgie was living at the Medford City Infirmary.

By 1891 the densest area of African American settlement in West Medford was on Arlington Street. Poll tax records for that year indicate that eight of forty-nine Arlington Street heads of household were African American, while only one of forty-nine Jerome Street householders was African American (the caterer James R. Young) and no Lincoln Street householders were African American. At 47 Arlington Street were Henry P. Peters and his son William, a teamster. At 54 Arlington Street (not extant) were Lawrence M. Furr, a porter, and Franklin S. Furr, a caterer. Born in Virginia and probably brothers, the Furrs had lived in Boston in 1890 with their widowed mother and another brother, Henry F. Furr, who bought the Arlington Street property in 1891 and died there in 1895. Like Henry P. Peters, the families of Henry and Franklin Furr remained in West Medford for many decades. Between the Peters and Furr homes was that of George Washington, who worked for the Fitchburg Railroad but about whom little else is known. Roughly across the street, at 62 Arlington (then numbered 30, not extant), was the printer John Edward Bankhead, a native of Virginia who had lived with his wife Almira, a Maine-born stewardess, in New York City in 1880. Bankhead died in Medford in 1907, and his widow, along with her adopted son John, her sister, a boarder, and an infant state ward, still lived at 62 Arlington in 1920.

By 1896, poll tax records show, the population of African Americans in this neighborhood had grown substantially. Eight of fifty-four Arlington Street heads of household, one of three Linden (now Fairfield) Street householders (William G. Butler), at least ten of seventy-five Jerome Street householders, and at least nine of twenty-nine Lincoln Street householders were African American. In 1892 alone the families of George H. Snowden, Harry R. Robinson, and Edwin H. Rhone all acquired property in the neighborhood; in 1893 and 1894 Franklin Furr, Rufus Parham, and Timothy G. Haskins bought property here; in 1895 George W. Evans acquired 159 Jerome Street. All of these families were long-term residents of the neighborhood. Poll tax records sometimes pinpoint how recent a person's settlement was: in 1896 twenty-two-year-old Luther Tate was boarding or renting from Franklin Furr on

[23] Kountze, This Is Your Heritage, 150, 279.

Arlington Street; in 1895, according to these records, he had been living in Virginia. The porters George W. Allen and Shadrach Hunter, living on Arlington Street in 1896, had both lived in Boston in 1895.

Between 1890 and 1900, the African American population of Medford increased from 58 to 244 persons, a decennial rate of increase of more than 320 percent; over the same period the city's white population rose from 11,849 to 18,000 persons, or by almost 52 percent. Over the next decade, the number of African Americans increased to 431, or by 76 percent over 1900, while Medford's total population rose by about 27 percent. African American population in the city then increased at a slower rate than overall population between 1910 and 1930.

The highest rate of growth in Medford's African American population over the entire period from 1870 to 1960 occurred between 1890 and 1900, more than two decades before the so-called "Great Migration" of African Americans from the South to the North is said to have begun. Historians generally date the onset of this movement between 1910 and 1915 and its end at 1970; over that time more than six million African Americans left the South. When the migration began only 10 percent of all African Americans lived outside the South; by the time it ended nearly half did. Encouraged by railroads and northern industry, the migration was pulled by the massive need of labor in the North's cities and other industrial centers and pushed by the devastation of the boll weevil, mechanization of cotton agriculture, and persistent racial discrimination and inequity.[24]

Modern historians lament the absence of substantial scholarship on the Great Migration, but historians have paid even less attention to the experience of African Americans in the North between the end of the Civil War and the beginning of that migration. In Massachusetts as a whole African American population grew faster than white population between both 1870 and 1880 and 1890 and 1900; Medford's African American population grew faster than the state's as a whole between 1870 and 1900.

Deeds and other documents make clear that the immigration was composed of African Americans born not only in the South but also in Canada's Maritime Provinces, in northern New England states, and in more densely settled cities nearby, principally Boston and Cambridge; some few others were born in the West Indies, and some who came initially from the South had lived for varying number of years in Boston or Cambridge before moving to West Medford. A small number of later residents were first- and second-generation Cape Verdean Americans, from the Afro-Portuguese Cape Verde Islands off the west coast of Africa.

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[24] See Nicholas Lemann, *The Promised Land: The Great Black Migration and How it Changed America* (New York: Knopf, 1991), 6, 16; and Isabel Wilkerson, *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* (New York: Random House, 2010), 9-11.

The African American population of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and other eastern coastal provinces was based on the influx of Loyalist African Americans during and after the Revolution and War of 1812, people enslaved by Revolutionary-era Loyalists, and Jamaicans exiled from that island after a failed revolt in 1796. But by the late 1800s racial discrimination in employment, education, public accommodations, and other spheres of life was as marked in Canada as in the United States. Both whites and blacks moved to the States during what historian Robin Winks termed the "great exodus" from Nova Scotia around the turn of the twentieth century.[25] More than half of the black population of Nova Scotia was composed of rural property owners, often living on and working poor or marginal land. Historian Suzanne Morton has noted that "high levels of outmigration across Nova Scotian society suggest a surplus of local labor" over much of the nineteenth century.[26] The African American beautician Evelyn Postell Tyner, who lived with her husband Charles at 68 Lincoln Street (not extant) from the mid-1950s, was the granddaughter of Joseph Cromwell, a descendant of a black Loyalist who settled in Nova Scotia during the Revolution; born in Nova Scotia, Cromwell was living in Cambridge in 1893 when he married Tyner's mother, Florence Slater, born in the District of Columbia but then a resident of Cambridge. Earlier, Thomas Solomon Price (also shown as Solomon Thomas Price), born in Jamaica in 1891, and his wife Amelia, born in Nova Scotia, had lived at the same address. By 1900 Herbert Kelley, born in Digby County, Nova Scotia, had acquired 15 Jerome Street in West Medford and lived there until he died in 1947; over the course of his years there numerous relatives and friends from Nova Scotia boarded with or rented from him.

A survey of Lincoln Street residents in 1900 and 1920 indicates the demographic diversity of the African American population. At that time, the federal census shows seventeen households on the street, six of them owned or rented by African Americans and eleven by whites. Of nineteen African Americans aged eighteen and older, eight were born in the South (four in Virginia, three in North Carolina, and one in Maryland), eight were born in the North (three in Massachusetts, four in New York, and 1 in New Jersey), and one each was born in California, English Canada, and the West Indies. Of the twelve African Americans younger than eighteen, half had been

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[25] Robin W. Winks, *The Blacks in Canada: A History*, 2d ed. (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1997), 289, 292. Winks has stated of Maritime Canada's people of African descent, "Relatively few left the Maritimes before the general 'great exodus' from that region late in the century; but perhaps two-thirds of those in the Canadas, more recently arrived and often with family ties in their former homes, moved in reverse down the Underground Railroad—now openly and often still in poverty, yet not uncommonly with an education and the small proceeds from the sale of a plot of Canadian land. . . . Canada was susceptible to the same pseudo-anthropology and pseudo-science that grew in western Europe, Britain, and the United States between 1870 and 1930. . . . the Negro in Canada found himself sliding down an inclined plane from mere neglect to active dislike." See also Bridglal Pachai, *People of the Maritimes: Blacks* (Halifax, Nova Scotia: Nimbus Publishing, 1997).

[26] Suzanne Morton, "Separate Spheres in a Separate World: African-Nova-Scotian Women in Late-19th-Century Halifax County," *Acadiensis* 22, 2 (Spring 1993): 65.

born in Massachusetts, two in Rhode Island, and four in North Carolina.[27] By 1920, sixteen of eighteen Lincoln Street households were African American. Of those sixteen, seven were owned outright or with a mortgage, while nine were rented. Of forty-six African Americans on the street who were eighteen years old or older in 1920, thirty had been born in the South (ten in North Carolina, nine in the District of Columbia, and six in Virginia), thirteen were born in New England (twelve of them in Massachusetts), two in the West Indies, and one in Nova Scotia. That this initial postwar migration phase was effectively over by 1920 is indicated by the fact that all forty-one African American residents of Lincoln Street who were younger than eighteen had been born in Massachusetts.

Why Medford specifically experienced such growth in its African American population is not yet known. Historian Elizabeth Pleck has noted that African American Bostonians Coffin Pitts and Leonard Grimes, working with the federal Freedman's Bureau, helped more than one thousand black Virginians settle in the city and its suburbs, obtain training at Cambridge's Howard Industrial School, and find work. Some Boston employment firms and African American contractors also recruited formerly enslaved people for service work in hotels.[28] Such relatively small-scale efforts may have stimulated some movement to West Medford.

It seems likely that the slow development of the Smith Estate subdivision and the increasing interest in selling lots at any reasonable price may have been a stronger factor in the settlement of African Americans in the neighborhood. By 1874 Samuel S. Holton had defaulted on mortgages on more than forty lots and houses in the subdivision, and by 1878 Blackstone National Bank in Boston held title to all of them. Holton, Judkins, and Story had sold many other lots only to see them change hands often and remain undeveloped. Edwin and Clara Rhone's acquisition of 85 Jerome Street (not extant) is a case in point. In December 1873 lot 69 on the August 1870 subdivision plan had neither been built upon nor sold, and Holton sold the lot with the stipulation that no building be erected within twenty feet of Jerome Street and no nonresidential structures be erected at all. The property then changed hands several times, and by 1882 Sarah A. P. Whiton had acquired it; it was under her ownership that the house was built. She sold the Jerome Street house and lot in 1886, it was sold again less than three years later, and it was sold again in October 1891. The Rhones bought in 1892.

According to Frank W. Lovering, local builder George Keene had constructed a house at 28 Monument Street but was unable to sell it for years; after he "threatened" to sell it to an African American family the property finally sold, but Keene was

[27] Of twenty-one white residents of Lincoln Street, seven were born in New England, seven in English Canada, four in Ireland, two in Scotland, and one at sea.
[28] Elizabeth Hafkin Pleck, *Black Migration and Poverty: Boston, 1865-1900* (New York: Academic Press, 1979), 25-29.

"railroaded out of town by public sentiment, never came back."[29] Still, as Pleck has noted, African Americans had been "virtually shut out of the market for single family homes" in Boston after the war,[30] and as industrialization and urbanization accelerated the desire among both whites and blacks to leave city apartments and tenements for a suburban location was strong, particularly, one might imagine, among African Americans who had left the rural South and settled initially in crowded Boston and Cambridge. In addition, there were whites who had speculated in lots and houses in the West Medford subdivision that did not display intense resistance to selling to people of color. One was G. Edward Smith, a real estate and insurance broker and diamond dealer who had acquired the lots owned by Blackstone National Bank in 1884. Smith at the time owned a great deal of the land in Falmouth Heights, then being developed as a summer resort.[31] Smith and his wife sold 45 and 55 Arlington Street (not extant) to the Franklin S. Furr family in 1893 and 1894, in 1916 he sold a lot to African American domestic Estelle F. V. Coleman, and in 1926 his estate sold 136 Arlington (not extant) to the Medford Welfare Club, an African American mutual benefit organization established that same year. Another white speculator who sold to African Americans was Murray Cheever, a watchmaker and watch factory executive from Waltham who was an active speculator in real estate in many parts of Medford in the 1890s and first decade of the 1900s. Cheever sold 26 Jerome to George H. Snowden and 94 Arlington to Harry R. Robinson in 1892, as well as 59 Jerome Street to Timothy G. Haskins in 1894.

African American settlement in West Medford was also aided by the existence from an early point of organizations such as the Medford (sometimes shown as West Medford) Welfare Club, created to help them secure properties and financing.[32] In 1906 a group of African American neighborhood residents formed the Mystic Finance Club, formed to help other African Americans buy and sell homes; according to one account, the club offered long-term mortgages at affordable rates.[33] Among its trustees were William Overton, Franklin S. Furr, and Joseph Jeffress (or Jeffries), the latter two of whom had been hired by Lewis Lovering to build houses in the Smith Estate subdivision. In their off-hours while working for Mann, Lovering and another unidentified carpenter built 115 Jerome Street, and it seems likely, as Kountze

[29] Lovering quoted in Kountze, *This Is Your Heritage*, 264.
[30] Pleck, *Black Migration*, 33.
[31] Candace Jenkins, "The Development of Falmouth as a Summer Resort, 1850-1900," 7-8, on www.woodsholemuseum.org/woodspages/…/v6n1-SummerRes.pdf, notes that Smith acquired most of the lots of the Falmouth Heights Land and Wharf Company in 1878 and sold them in 1888; the rest of the lots in the development were sold to George Tower, who was also involved with Smith in several West Medford properties.
[32] Kountze, *This Is Your Heritage*, 240, 325, 419, states that the West Medford Welfare Club was founded in 1910 to promote "the idea of thrift and co-operation and real estate buying" within the neighborhood, but deeds date its organization to 1926; there may have been an earlier incarnation of the club.
[33] Dee Morris, "Historical Background," in *A Legacy Remembered: The African American Community of West Medford*, eds. Kristen Johnson and Alice Noling (Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2012), 8.

asserted, that Furr, Jeffress, William Higginbotham (also a Lovering employee), and Rufus Parham and his sons built and finished houses in the area on their own time. Lovering's son Frank remembered Higginbotham, born in Georgia in 1849 and a resident of Jerome Street from at least 1910 to at least 1930, as an "outstanding cabinet, door, and sash maker," while Furr specialized in oak cabinetry.[34] Rufus Parham and his sons Otis, Sylvester, Edgar, and Wayne were well-known carpenters, roofers, and floor layers whose work was displayed in many private and public buildings, including ballrooms and estates.[35]

In addition to such organizations as the Mystic Finance Club, African American realtors promoted the neighborhood to others. By 1928 Hillard Kountze had founded the Suburban Real Estate Exchange in a small building at the rear of his 59 Jerome Street property that had once housed the laundry of previous owner Timothy G. Haskins. Kountze developed the realty business while he continued to work as a night watchman at the Boston post office, and he is said to have been not only Medford's but Boston's "first colored realtor."[36] In 1928 Kountze's daughter Portia, a graduate of Portia Law School in Boston (initially a law school for women affiliated with Suffolk University School of Law), was a stenographer for her father, and after his death in 1940 she took over the realty business. According to her brother Mabray, his father, Portia, and other family members "worked and succeeded in opening up some formerly 'white' housing areas to Colored home buyers, in quiet crusades, conducted as early as the 1930's, traveling throughout Suburbia in an old, but reliable, Model T Ford."[37] Historian Sharon Kennedy has stated, "It is fairly clear that a major reason why West Medford developed into a Black community was because Hillard and Portia were able to attract Black homeowners to this area" at a time when most Massachusetts suburban realtors would not sell property to African Americans and most Massachusetts banks would not finance mortgages for them.[38]

According to Mabray Kountze, the family realty business was aided in the 1940s by John J. Mulkerin, a second-generation Irish American dairyman and contractor who had owned and occupied 75 Arlington Street since about 1890. Mulkerin held a considerable amount of undeveloped land along that street, some of it earlier occupied by African Americans whose houses the state had acquired and moved about 1900 for the Mystic Valley Parkway, built instead in Arlington along the west side of the Mystic River. Mulkerin sold the property to Portia Kountze Bosfield "to be sold to Colored families who today occupy the site where homes had been removed 50 years previous." Kountze added,

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[34] Morris, "Historical Background," 8; Kountze, *This Is Your Heritage*, 263, 413.
[35] Kountze, *This Is Your Heritage*, 277.
[36] "Hillard Kountze, Boston Realtor, Dies Suddenly," *Afro American*, 28 September 1940, 23.; Dr. Ione Dugger Vargas in Kennedy, *Voices of West Medford*, 10-11.
[37] Kountze, *This Is Your Heritage*, 476.
[38] Kennedy, *Voices of West Medford*, 11.

> Mulkerin and his family had no easy road and his experiences led him increasingly into closer and warmer friendships with his Colored neighbors. Mulkerin's last action, shortly before his passing, was to dispose of his land holdings for the building of Colored homes in the district. He did this even though white business interests were seeking the land for other purposes, and were reportedly willing to pay a high rate of purchase at the time.[39]

Other African Americans appear to have been similarly engaged., according to Whitfield Jeffers, whose parents Napoleon and Anna Belle Jeffers came from Henderson, North Carolina, to West Medford in 1916:

> I can't tell you too much about this, but I do know that there were two black men who helped others to acquire property in West Medford. Ralph Banks and Louis Woods already lived in this community and owned houses. They were involved in real estate and insurance, and Ralph's brother was a lawyer. I know they helped many, many families. As far as that kind of help is concerned, there was another person in this community who was important too. This was a woman named Ethel Evans, and she worked at the State House in Boston. So she wasn't involved with the purchase of houses, but she was someone that everyone here knew to go to for help with any kind of business that might take you to the State House. Most people here wouldn't really know how to deal with all the red tape involved. Ethel did know and she'd walk you through all the necessary steps.[40]

Ralph Julian Banks was born in Boston in 1900; his father George T. Bank was a rail yard clerk from Brooklyn, and his mother, Alice Simmons, was a native of New Bern, North Carolina. By 1930 Ralph Banks owned 127 Harvard Avenue in West Medford, and, like Hillard Kountze, he was both a realtor and post office employee. Louis F. Woods was a railroad porter born in Waynesboro, Virginia, about 1876 and living in Boston by 1900. By 1920 he had acquired the house and lot at 99 Jerome Street, but directories from that year through at least 1938 always show his occupation as hotel waiter. Ethel Evans was the daughter of George W. Evans and his wife Ordelia Carter, Virginians who had married in Boston in 1889 and owned and occupied 159 Jerome Street from 1895. Ethel Evans, born in 1889, was working as a clerk at the Massachusetts State House by 1920, and she was still working there in 1945.[41]

A remarkable number of other African American neighborhood groups worked to provide other sorts of assistance to residents and improvements to area infrastructure. Among them were the Progressive Club, a neighborhood welfare

[39] Kountze, *This Is Your Heritage*, 276, 413.
[40] Jeffers quoted in Kennedy, *Voices of West Medford*, 45.
[41] The information in this paragraph was found in census records.

group founded by West Medford African American women (1900-ca. 1910); the Daffodil Philanthropic Club, a women's auxiliary to the Elks (1910 to at least 1942); the Phyllis Wheatley Lend-A-Hand Club (founded 1902-4), which provided financial support to those in the neighborhood who were ill or infirm, had had death in their families, or needed assistance in paying for college; the West Medford Men's Community Club, founded in 1935; the West Medford Citizens' Committee, formed in 1939, and its "offshoot," the West Medford Civic Committee, founded in 1962; and the West Medford Improvement Association, created in 1957 to petition the city for necessary neighborhood improvements. In 1939 the neighborhood succeeded in creating Dugger Park, named for the late African American Lieutenant Colonel Edward Dugger (who lived at 164 Jerome Street), and there such neighborhood men as Walter Isaacs, Walter Barros, and Clarence Rhone taught children how to play baseball and tennis. Probably soon after World War II ended the West Medford Community Center was created in a former Army barracks building that had been given to the neighborhood and transported and assembled on Jerome Street, also by men from the neighborhood.[42]

One other institution probably also attracted African Americans to the area. Shiloh Baptist Church at 31 Lincoln Street was built and dedicated in 1899, when the community was still relatively small. Accounts differ on exactly when and how the church emerged, but the city directory for 1900 states that it was organized on 30 April 1897 and was then at 39 Lincoln Street, the house just east of the church site that the congregation may have bought for services while the church was being built.[43] At the time of its founding the congregation included twelve people, but by 1902 sixty persons were members, including some African American families who lived in Arlington. By 1957, during the longtime ministry of Rev. Oscar G. Phillips, more than 750 people were in Shiloh Baptist's congregation. For many years the church was not only a sanctuary but a community center: it was here the Elmer Kountze recruited his fellow Shiloh choir members into Company K of the African Americans 372d Infantry for service during the First World War, and here where West Medford Community Club was organized in 1935.[44]

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[42] Kennedy, *Voices of West Medford*, 6, 17-19; Kountze, *This Is Your Heritage*, 422-23.

[43] Marguerite Walker Pinkston told West Medford African American historian Mabrayt Kountze that the Shiloh congregation took formal shape at a short-lived mission organized about 1895 at 30 Lincoln Street. Mortimer E. Wilber's account, published in the 6 June 1902 *Medford Mercury*, held that the congregation bought a vacant home next to the later church site, and, with the assistance of African American minister Samuel A. Grice (about whom nothing has so far been discovered), organized the church there on 4 May 1898. Pinkston's mother Lena Banks Walker, who grew up in Arlington and was the only surviving charter member when Kountze interviewed her, stated that the first meeting of Shiloh's congregation was at 25 Sherman Street, where the families of Rufus Parham and Joseph Jeffress then lived. Finally, Annie Furr, widow of Franklin S. Furr, who had lived at 55 Arlington Street (later moved to 37 Jerome) since 1891, told Kountze that those who organized Shiloh's congregation met first at her Arlington Street house. See Kountze, *This Is Your Heritage*, 231, 234-38, 274, 276.

[44] Kountze, *This Is Your Heritage*, 414; Kennedy, *Voices of West Medford*, 7.

Such active and institutionalized encouragement to African American families made the neighborhood a desirable one. Mabray Kountze, born in 1910, stated, "The present West Medford Colored community and church originally developed through choice; not a forced segregation, as some younger generation might believe. In fact, succeeding generations of Colored always inquired where they could locate the Colored community in Medford, and most preferred to move and live there."[45] It is difficult to determine the validity of Kountze's statement and to what degree realtors steered African American families to the neighborhood. Still, even as censuses and residents' recollections indicate particular concentrations of African Americans on Jerome and Lincoln Street, the neighborhood was always racially and ethnically diverse. Kountze stated in the 1960s, "This was originally a 99% white community of comparatively poor and middle class white families. But, as a people, English, Irish, Scotch, German, Italian, French Canadian, Portuguese, Colored, and Jew, we all lived together and thought nothing of it."[46]

Fig.2: Detail of ca. 1880 Bird's Eye View of West Medford showing vacant land along the Mystic River and Arlington Street south of Harvard Avenue.

As late as the second decade of the twentieth century, Kountze stated, this section of West Medford remained largely rural (Fig.2). "In the early days, in Medford, living near the river and marshlands was no picnic," he wrote. ". . . Sometimes the river overflowed the banks, flooding the yards, streets and cellars, until river-control was

[45] Kountze, *This Is Your Heritage*, 408.
[46] Ibid., 409.

later affected." Yet he recalled the neighborhood of his childhood as something of a rural paradise:

> As a young boy, I saw cows, goats, and horses grazing in the then, wide open expanse of open fields, stretching from Jerome Street to the banks of the historic Mystic River. In those days I could stand on Jerome street and look all the way across to Arlington. From the beginning of Jerome at High Street, clear down to what we then called Fairfield Avenue, there were probably not much more than a dozen houses, counting both sides of the street. There was, then, a wide expanse of vacant lots, or fields, between each house, and each house had sizeable yard space, with some sort of barn or chicken coop in the back. It was the same pattern all the length of Jerome, and Lincoln, and Arlington streets, as well. In fact, there were no houses at all, on the far south end of Jerome street; just an open field and what looked like the remains of a small bridge for crossing the river.[47]

Maps indicate that Kountze's memory of the neighborhood was accurate in large measure. The 1910 Sanborn fire insurance map shows nineteen houses on Jerome between High and Fairfield streets, but the street still had almost twenty vacant lots at the time, and many houses had generous lots.

Smith Estate in 1930 and after

Even as the neighborhood was racially integrated, by 1930 the census suggests that certain pockets were virtually segregated. Lincoln Street, for example had twenty-four heads of household, either owners or renters, but of those twenty-four twenty-two were African American. On Jerome Street, thirty-nine of sixty-one householders were African American (64 percent), and on the western reaches of Harvard Avenue, below Jerome Street, most householders were African American. The 1930 census shows that Arlington Street was by then more heavily populated by whites than by African Americans, while the northern part of Harvard Avenue and all of Boston and Monument Avenues were white. Only one African American household is shown on both Sharon and Bowers Streets by 1930.

Kountze's recollection of the ethnic mix in this period is also substantially accurate. Of the twenty-two white householders on Jerome Street, half had been born in Italy, and another was second-generation Italian American. Another six were foreign-born, from Russia, Ireland, Canada, and Prussia; six were natives of Massachusetts and Maine. Among the twenty-one African American owners and seventeen renters (and one whose status on this score was unknown) on Jerome Street in 1930, thirteen had been born in Virginia, six in North Carolina, and one in the District of Columbia. Of the fifteen who were born in the North (Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, Nebraska, Colorado, and Minnesota), nine had parents both born in the South. Four

[47] Kountze, *This Is Your Heritage*, 408-9.

had been born in Canada, three in English-speaking Canada and the fourth in Quebec of Kentucky-born parents. Ten of Lincoln Street's African American householders owned their property, while the remaining twelve rented. Of these twenty-two, seven had been born in Virginia, five in North Carolina, and one each in the District of Columbia, Kentucky, Georgia, and Tennessee. Of the six born in the North, the parents of five had been born in the South.

According to Mabray Kountze, "white flight" from West Medford began in the 1930s as these residential enclaves visibly gelled. "White families had begun to move out of the now West Medford Colored community sometime in the late 1930's but only in numbers, which began to increase noticeably during the 1940's and 50's," he wrote. "And, as one might guess, this coincided with the biggest real estate promotional land buying, home building and expansion boom that may ever again hit the community." Oscar Greene, who had grown up in Williamstown, Massachusetts, came to West Medford with his family after the Second World War and rented part of 166 Jerome Street. When the family moved to Sharon Street in 1948, he said, only one other African American family lived on the street. "When a third Black family moved in," Greene stated, "four White families fled to Boston Ave. near the Hillside."[48]

Between 1920 and 1960 the African American population of West Medford rose from 535 to 1087 persons, a 103 percent increase that constituted a far faster rate of growth than in the city population as a whole (from 39,038 to 64.971 persons, or a 66.4 percent increase). Overall city population grew faster than Medford's black population between 1920 and 1940, but after 1940 black population growth consistently outpaced white. In fact, when Medford's total population dropped by nearly 2 percent between 1950 and 1960, its African American population increased by more than 35 percent, from 802 to 1087 persons. Neighborhood residents Oscar Greene and Whitfield Jeffers have observed that only since the 1960s have African American families begun to buy houses on Sharon, Monument, and Arlington Streets, though African Americans had lived on Arlington Street since the early 1890s; as younger African Americans have chosen not to remain in West Medford, they said, Caribbean and African people of color have joined whites in resettling the neighborhood.[49]

The 1940 census may hint at the beginning of this movement. The enumeration district embracing this West Medford neighborhood then included eight persons with British West Indian birthplaces; in two cases both husband and wife are so shown, while in all other instances West Indian men of color married women from the United States, both North and South; these figures suggest that the West Indian immigration, at this time as it tended to be earlier in the century, was largely a

[48] Kountze, *This Is Your Heritage*, 474; Greene in Kennedy, *Voices of West Medford*, 24.
[49] Kennedy, *Voices of West Medford*, iii.

movement of single men in search of work. West Indian native Andrew Wellington Clark had been living in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1935; his wife was from South Carolina, and the couple's five children, between the ages of six and sixteen, were born in four different American states—Ohio, North Carolina, Massachusetts, and the youngest two in Connecticut.

By 1940, Lincoln Street was slightly less populated by people of African descent than it had been earlier. While black households were 35 percent of all Lincoln Street households in 1900, they were 89 percent of all households in 1920, almost 92 percent of all households on the street in 1930, but 87 percent of all households (twenty-seven of thirty-one) in 1940. In 1940 Jerome Street had proportionately more African American households than in 1930: while thirty-nine of sixty-one Jerome Street households were African American in 1930 (64 percent), forty-three of sixty households there were African American in 1940 (almost 72 percent). By then Arlington Street had sixteen African American households out of forty-three counted in its enumeration district, or 37 percent.

The unavailability of censuses after 1940 makes it impossible to determine the overall ethnic and racial profile of the neighborhood in more modern times, but deeds and the 1940 census permit a view of some of its particular features. African Americans owned a number of households in this West Medford neighborhood for many decades, some into the current day. The Furr family has owned 37 Jerome Street (moved there from Arlington Street) since 1890; Rufus Parham bought 45 Lincoln Street in 1894 and remained there until 1915; from then to the current day African American families have continued to own the house. The house at 59 Jerome Street was occupied by the Haskins, Kountze, Douglas, Marable, and Benders families, all African American, from 1894 to 1974; the house next door, 61 Jerome Street, was owned and occupied by African Americans Charles R. Brent, Ernest Dodson, Robert and Henrietta Smith, and Richard H. Furr from 1900 to 1966. Probably built on speculation in 1892, 166 Sharon Street was occupied by Virginia-born Sarah Jones from 1893 through 1900 and then rented the house to African Americans; it too became a Furr family property by marriage and was occupied by Charlotte Furr until the late 1970s.

Several other houses long owned and occupied by white families were acquired by African Americans from 1940 forward. Clarence A. Rhone bought 75 Arlington Street from the family of Irish immigrant dairy farmer Michael Mulkerin about 1941; the house remains in the Rhone family. In 1946 Edward Andrews bought 89 Arlington Street, built about 1890 and occupied by white families through at least 1935; that property too remains in the Andrews family. In 1966 African Americans Solomon and Judith Carrington bought 24 Sharon Street, which had been built in the mid- to late 1920s by Azorean immigrant Antonio J. Parece and occupied continuously by white families until 1966. White families owned and occupied 63 Lincoln Street from its construction about 1890 to about 1925, when African American chauffeur Perley

Smith acquired it; his executor sold the property to an African American family in 1958, and it remained in African American ownership until at least 1966.

Other neighborhood properties have changed hands between native-born white, foreign-born white, and African American families. One of the first houses built in the subdivision in 1870, 55 Jerome Street, was initially owned and occupied by white broker Henry B. Nottage, who moved to High Street in the mid-1880s; in 1887 the property's absentee owner sold it to African American caterer James Ross Young. In 1901 African American Wesley Robinson bought the house and lot at auction, but by 1910 he had sold it to a Russian Jewish immigrant family. By 1920 an Italian immigrant family owned and occupied 55 Jerome Street, and the house was occupied by white families until 1959, when African American Charles J. Calvey, who had come North with his brother from their native Louisiana in 1943, bought the property. Calvey's widow owned the property in 2009. Similarly, 107 Jerome, Street built by developer Moses Mann between 1875 and 1889, was occupied by white families until 1896 and then by African American families from 1896 to 1972.

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PROPERTIES FOR WHICH MHC INVENTORY FORMS WERE COMPLETED

MHC No.	St. No.	Street Name	Historic Name	Year Built
MDF.697	75	ARLINGTON ST	Mulkerin-Rhone House	ca. 1890
MDF.698	89	ARLINGTON ST	Edward & Madeline Dugger Andrews House	ca. 1890
MDF.699	136	ARLINGTON ST	Sherwood -- Booker House	ca. 1945
MDF.700	40	FAIRFIELD ST	William G. & Emma Butler House	ca. 1875
MDF.701	118	HARVARD AV	Walter M. & Carrie M. Sherwood House	ca. 1905
MDF.702 MDF.703	15	JEROME ST	Herbert & Lily Kelley House & Stables Mystic Riding School	ca. 1885
MDF.704	37	JEROME ST	Franklin & Annie Furr House	ca. 1890
MDF.705	55	JEROME ST	James R. & Amelia T. Young House	ca. 1870
MDF.706	59	JEROME ST	Haskins-Kountze House	ca. 1894
MDF.707	61	JEROME ST	Robert H. & Henrietta L.B. Smith House	ca. 1894
MDF.708	75	JEROME ST	John M. Dodge Rental House	ca. 1895
MDF.709	107	JEROME ST	Mann-Gaskins House	ca. 1880
MDF.710	115	JEROME ST	Lovering-Kountze House	ca. 1875
MDF.711	127	JEROME ST	Shiloh Baptist Church Parsonage	ca. 1889
MDF.712	152	JEROME ST	Chester A. & Wilhemina T. Lanier House	ca. 1895
MDF.713	158	JEROME ST	Edward & Madeline K. Dugger Three Decker	ca. 1905
MDF.714	159	JEROME ST	Evans-Smith House	ca. 1890
MDF.715	164	JEROME ST	Edward & Madeline K. Dugger House	ca. 1936
MDF.716	31	LINCOLN ST	Shiloh Baptist Church	1899
MDF.717	45	LINCOLN ST	Rufus & Amanda Parnam House	ca. 1894
MDF.718	166	SHARON ST	Sarah A. Jones House	ca. 1892

PROPERTIES REFERENCED IN TEXT FOR WHICH MHC INVENTORY FORMS WERE NOT COMPLETED (OTHERS NOT LISTED ARE NO LONGER EXTANT)

94 Arlington Street
99 Harvard Avenue
127 Harvard Avenue
17 Jerome Street
36 Jerome Street
97 Jerome Street
39 Lincoln Street
63 Lincoln Street
24 Sharon Street