

Documentation Report

Carboneau House

6 Rockwell Avenue

Medford, MA



Prepared for:
Medford Historical Commission
Medford, MA

Prepared by:
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Table of Contents

- I. Acknowledgements
- II. Introduction
- III. Executive summary
- IV. Investigation and Description
- V. Conclusion and recommendations
- VI. Appendices
 - A. MHC Form B
 - B. House Plans and Elevations
 - Existing conditions
 - Plan-Cellar
 - Plan-Ground floor
 - Plan-Second floor
 - North Elevation
 - West Elevation
 - East Elevation
 - South Elevation
 - Original configuration

Plan-Cellar

Plan-Ground floor

Second floor

C. Photographs (Figures) in Text

I. Acknowledgements

I am grateful for the assistance of Ryan Hayward, Chair of the Medford Historical Commission, for his assistance with the investigation and documentation of the Carboneau House at 6 Rockwell Ave., Medford, MA. Mr Hayward is also responsible for the measurement and CAD drawings of the cellar, ground floor, and second floor of the house in its present and original configurations.

Myron O. Stachiw

December 30, 2015

II. Introduction

The Medford (MA) Historical Commission requested the investigation and documentation of the Carboneau House located at 6 Rockwell Avenue in the East Medford section of the city. The property is currently under a demolition delay requested by the Historical Commission and imposed by the City of Medford as a result of the age of the building and the plans of the current owner to remove the building and erect a new structure on the lot.

Research on the property conducted for the Medford Historical Commission has determined that the house was constructed as a single-family residence between 1886 and 1889 and occupied by Stanislas Carboneau and his family at least until 1934. Subsequently the property was owned by Frank R. Moran and his family until recently, although it appears not to have been regularly occupied for the past decade or longer.

Investigation of the house involved a one-day visit to the house by Myron O. Stachiw during which a visual investigation was undertaken without any demolition or removal of historic fabric. The objective was to investigate whether any significant alterations were made to the structure during its nearly 130 years of existence, to document those changes, and to provide a written description of the nature and character of the building, taking into consideration its present condition, finishes, and state of preservation. Drawings completed by Mr. Ryan Hayward provide information on the current and original configurations of the building, and photographs taken by Myron O. Stachiw and Ryan Hayward provide additional visual documentation of the building.

III. Executive Summary

The Carboneau House takes its name from its first occupant/owner, Stanislas Carboneau (1845-1934), who emigrated to the US from Canada in 1880 (See Appendix A for a brief history of the site as recorded on the MHC Form B). Carboneau worked as a dye man and mill operative in the nearby Mystic Print and Dye Works from 1887 to 1910, and later as a bank watchman. The one and one-half story Queen Anne-style home was built between 1886 and 1889 as part of a development of five modest, nearly identical dwelling houses erected on land of D. H. Petty on the east side of the newly laid-out Rockwell Avenue.

The Carboneau House is in a remarkable state of preservation. It has undergone few physical

changes in its internal configuration over the past 130 years of occupation and use, and retains nearly all of its original finishes, architectural trim, and door and window hardware. (See Appendix B for plans and elevations of the house as it exists today and plans showing the original configuration.) No significant removal of historic fabric and replacement with modern elements has occurred in any of the rooms (with the exception of the modern bathroom in Rm. 107 and kitchen in Rm. 103). Documented changes to the interior of the structure include the early 20th century removal of a staircase to the cellar in the rear ell (Rm. 105) and its relocation beneath the staircase to the second floor in a space that was originally constructed as a closet; creation of a bathroom in a small room off the kitchen on the ground floor (Rm. 107); insertion of a central, coal-fired furnace in the cellar, probably during the early 20th century, which replaced coal- or wood-fired stoves in three of the ground floor rooms and in one of the second floor rooms with ducted heating grates in the floors; installation of a newer hot water furnace and radiators throughout the house in the mid 20th century; and repapering and repainting of the walls and ceilings and some of the woodwork.

In form and massing the main portion of the building is a one and one-half story wood structure, with one-story rear ell (east side), a rectangular bay window projection on the ground floor from the parlor (Rm. 102) on the front elevation, and a rectangular projection of the dining room (Rm. 104) on the ground floor on the south wall of the house (See Appendix B – Existing Conditions, Plans and Elevations). The front entry into the building is through the west gable end which faces onto Rockwell Avenue. (Figure 1). The main one and one-half story block of the house and the one-story rear ell have gable roofs; the two one-story, front and south side projections are topped by hip roofs (Figures 2 and 3). A small brick chimney of the size of a single stove flue rises through the ridge of the one and one-half story section roughly at the midpoint between the front and rear elevations of the building. The house is entered from a small porch covered by the northward extension of the hip roof over the front bay window through a doorway at the north end of the west wall of the house (Figure 1).

On its exterior the building retains its Queen Anne-style ornamentation: paired elaborate brackets supporting the open soffit at each corner, paneled bargeboards, textured shingle treatment at the top of the gable that has a slightly swelling base, and molded window hoods. The original front door with rectangular colored-panes of glass also remains intact. Only the posts and railings of the front porch have recently been replaced.

The cellar retains the original coal-fired furnace, though it no longer is functional, having been replaced by the more modern circulating hot-water heating system with large iron radiators. The cellar also retains an early water closet along the east wall of the cellar. Below grade the foundation is constructed of mortared field stone; above grade of brick.

The building is constructed of circular sawn lumber in the manner of framing commonly referred to as balloon framing. Access to the actual frame of the building was limited to the view of the

underside of the ground floor from the cellar, and a view of the sill and portion of the north side wall in the relocated staircase to the cellar under the front stairs. All other wall, floor, and ceiling surfaces are covered with original flooring and lath and plaster and were not disturbed.

The excellent state of preservation of the original finishes and configuration of the house and its general good condition argue for its preservation. While the building will need upgrading/replacement of its electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems, and remodeling of the kitchen and bathroom, other features of the house will merely require cleaning up, repainting, and minor repair of plaster surfaces and painting or papering. It is a rare, modest dwelling house of late 19th century Queen Anne style that survives with a high degree of architectural integrity.

IV. Investigation and Description

Since very little physical removal of historic fabric occurred during the investigation, the following description is largely based on visual inspection and evaluation of the building. The description is presented on a room-by-room basis from unfinished cellar to the fully finished and plastered second floor. No access was available to the small attic space above the plastered ceiling of the second floor.

Building Frame

The building was constructed using the balloon framing method, which employs light, uniform, sawn lumber for the various components, joined with nails rather than by complex mortise and tenon joinery. Because the building is structurally intact and virtually unaltered, the framing is visible in only a few places, primarily in the cellar and in the cellar staircase. The unfinished cellar reveals a very simple manner of framing the ground floor. The stone and brick foundation is topped with circular-sawn 4 x 8 inch sills (the wider dimension is laid flat on the brick foundation); circular-sawn 2 x 6 inch floor joists rest atop the sills, running in a north-south direction; a 4 x 8 inch beam runs longitudinally through the middle of the cellar from east to west at the same height as the sills and is joined at the east and west ends to the sills and supported by four wooden posts set atop stone blocks on the earthen cellar floor. The joists are not continuous as they run from the north and south walls, but only reach to the central beam where they overlap on the beam and are nailed together with a single nail from each side. 1 x 2 inch bridging is nailed between the joists in an X manner. At the sills on the north and south walls the joists are nailed to the sides of the vertical 2 x 4 inch studs. As the building is one and one-half stories in height, it is likely that the studs in the north wall are uninterrupted between the sill and plate; on the south wall the west portion of the wall is probably similarly constructed while on the east portion of the wall, with its one-story projection of the dining room (Rm. 104), the studs are clearly only one story in height. It is not clear whether the building is constructed with H-bents at the gable ends and in the center of the building as was usual in one and one-half story buildings earlier in the 19th century, as there was no additional access to the framing within the walls. Similarly it is not known how the second floor joists are supported – whether on the framed H-bent girts or on clamps nailed to the inner face of the studs. The two projecting one-story bays in the west and south elevations of the building would have required additional framing to bridge those openings. At this point in the investigation these areas were not accessible.

Cellar

A fully excavated cellar exists beneath the house and rear ell (Figure 4). The foundation wall below grade consists of neatly-laid and mortared stone rubble; above grade the foundation is of

mortared brick which raises the sills approximately three feet above ground level and the top of the stone rubble foundation walls. The rectangular, stone rubble cellar foundation does not follow the footprint of the ground floor, as the front bay window and the south projection of the dining room lie outside of the excavated cellar with stone and brick foundation walls and are merely supported by wooden posts (Figure 2). A brick-walled cellar bulkhead is located on the south side of the rear ell.

Originally the cellar was entered from the ground floor of the house by a staircase that descended from east to west along the south wall of Rm. 105 in the rear ell. However, that staircase was removed sometime in the first half of the 20th century and the opening was closed-in and floored over, with the new material fastened with wire nails (Figure 5). A new staircase to the cellar descending from east to west was created beneath the front staircase, with the doorway to the staircase opening through the west wall of the kitchen. The space beneath the front staircase had originally been a closet accessed from the kitchen; the existing doorway from the kitchen continued to be used to access the new cellar stairs. To create the stairs the 2 x 6 inch floor joists were cut off at the face of the sill along the north wall and about three feet to the south; the ends of the cut-off joists were nailed into a new 1 x 8 inch with wire nails.

A small, brick chimney large enough for one flue rises from the center of the cellar. Just west of the chimney sits the old-octopus-style, coal-fired, hot-air furnace; a newer furnace that ran the hot water heating system sits along the west wall of the cellar. An old coal bin occupies the southwest corner of the cellar; the northeast quadrant of the cellar functions as a laundry and a water closet. The space under the rear ell is now open, with the cellar bulkhead stairs entering through the east end of the south wall of the ell foundation.

The Ground Floor

The ground floor presently contains three large rooms and the hall and staircase in the main block of the house, with three smaller rooms located in the rear, one-story ell (Figure 6).

Rear Ell

The rooms in the ell are presently a rear entry (Rm. 105); a small pantry (Rm. 106); and a bathroom (Rm. 107 – opening from the kitchen). It is likely that originally the present bathroom was a pantry that opened from the kitchen, as it does now; Rm. 106 was also probably a storage room, but perhaps not for kitchen supplies but for items that needed a cooler setting, and/or outdoor tools; and Rm. 105 was a rear entry and passage into the kitchen that also contained the original staircase to the cellar situated along the south wall between Rm 105 and Rms. 106 and 107. Presently the walls and

ceiling are covered with beadboard. The ceiling and west wall of Rm 105 in the rear ell clearly reveal the area of the former cellar staircase, closed-in with matching bead board; the floor also reveals the patch for the former staircase (Figure 5). The floor of the rear ell is one step down from the floor of the adjacent kitchen and other rooms of the main section of the house. There is no clear explanation of why this was done. The rear ell contains two windows and one door opening through the exterior walls: the doorway to the rear yard is in the north end of the east wall of Rm. 105; a double-hung sash window is located in the middle of the north wall of Rm. 105; and a small window in the south wall lights Rm. 107. It is not clear whether this window in the south wall is original or dates to the use of this space as a bathroom. No windows are found in either the east or south walls of Rm. 106.

Main block of the house

The ground floor of the main block of the house contains the parlor (Rm. 102), dining room (Rm. 104), kitchen (Rm. 103), and a hallway (Rm. 101) flanking the open staircase to the second floor which rises from west to east along the north wall of the house. (Figure 6).

Rm 101 – Entry and Stair Hall

The open staircase to the second floor and flanking hallway are located along the north wall of the main block of the house (Figure 7). The hallway ends just over halfway into the building at a doorway to the kitchen (Rm. 103) in the east wall. In the south wall a doorway opens into the parlor opposite the base of the stairs. The front doorway occupies the west wall. The upper half of the heavy front door consists of a large rectangular single pane of clear glass surrounded by smaller colored panes of glass (Figure 8). The lower half of the door consists of a horizontal panel above two rectangular panels, all surrounded by heavy, high-relief moldings. The doors in the hallway and throughout the house are hung on bronze hinges with molded floral ornament (Figure 9); a geometric pattern is found on the bronze escutcheons around the keyhole and doorknob (Figure 10). The doorknobs throughout the house are black-glazed ceramic or glass and all are engaged in mortise locks. The door and window architraves in the hallway containing the staircase to the second floor are trimmed in the same manner as those in the parlor and dining room. The complex molded door architraves end in the upper corners in square blocks containing round, turned, bull's eye-like ornaments in the center of the blocks (Figure 11). The door architraves terminate in nine-inch blocks above the floor.

A fixed single-sash window is located in the north wall halfway up the staircase. Like the front door, it contains a large central pane of clear glass surrounded by small square panes of colored glass (Figure 12). The architrave of this window is like those around the door openings, but the corner blocks with turned, bull's eye ornaments are found in all four corners of the architrave. The staircase begins at ground floor level with a complex, turned newel post topped by a turned ball ornament (Figure 13); the molded handrail sits atop slender turned balusters (two to a tread). The staircase rises

ten steps to a landing, then turns south and rises three more steps to the second floor hallway. Originally all of the woodwork in the house – doors, architraves, baseboards, window frames and sash, and stair balustrade – was not painted but stained and varnished.

Rm 102 - Parlor

The largest of the rooms in the main block of the house is the parlor, which occupies the southwest portion of the house. A rectangular bay projects outward on the front or west wall, with a standard-size, double-hung, sash window in the central west wall and two narrower double-hung sash windows in the side walls of the projecting bay (Figures 1 and 6,). Another standard-size, double-hung, sash window is centered on the south wall of the parlor (Figures 2 and 3). All of the full-sized, double-hung sash windows in this room and in the other rooms of the house contain two panes of glass in the upper sash and one in the lower sash. The window frames contain lobed, cast iron sash pulleys (Figure 14) embossed with “PAT FEB 10 74” (Patented February 10 ,1874).

Three doors open onto the parlor: one in the north wall to the entry and stair hall; a second in the south end of the east wall opening into the dining room; and a third in the north end of the east wall opening into a small closet. The doors contain four flat panels, each surrounded by an Italianate ogee molding; the lower panels are ¼ the size of the upper panels (Figures 11 and 1). The door and window architraves in this room are all trimmed in the same manner as in the front hallway. The complex molded door and window architraves end in the upper corners in square blocks containing round, turned, bull's eye-like ornaments in the center of the blocks. The door architraves terminate in nine-inch blocks above the floor. Originally all of the woodwork in the house – doors, architraves, baseboards, window frames and sash, and stair balustrade – was not painted but stained and varnished. At present the woodwork in the parlor is painted.

The shallow closet in the east wall has plastered walls and ceiling. A round metal heating duct from the old coal-fired, hot-air furnace in the cellar rises through the southwest corner of the closet to a heating duct in the floor of the parlor chamber. The brick stove flue rises in the wall between the closet and the dining room. A recessed rectangular niche in the wall framed by wood moldings before the stove flue indicates where the stove pipe thimble was formerly located for a stove that heated the parlor (Figure 16). The niche stands 19 to 29 inches above the level of the floor.

The walls above a molded baseboard (7 inches high including the top molding) are plastered and wallpapered over-circular sawn strip lath fastened with late machine cut nails. The ceiling is also plastered. The floors are random-width boards, face nailed to the joists. In the parlor the central portion of the floor is unpainted; a border about 18 to 24 inches wide around the perimeter of the room is grained, indicating that a carpet or linoleum floor covering occupied the central portion of the room.

The ceiling is plastered and painted; there is no molded or applied ornament such as medallion or plaster cornice on the ceiling. A single light fixture hangs from the center of the ceiling.

Rm. 104 - Dining Room

The dining room occupies the southeast quadrant of the ground floor and is the second largest of the rooms on the ground floor (Figure 6). Roughly square in shape, the south wall of the room projects out from the plane of the south façade of the house approximately four feet. A doorway in the west wall opens onto the parlor (Rm. 104); a doorway in the north wall opens into the kitchen (Rm. 103). The room contains three windows: normal width, double-hung sash windows are situated in the east and south walls, and a narrow double-hung sash window is in the south end of the west wall in that portion of the wall which projects out from the south wall of the house. A small china cupboard is situated in the east end of the north wall between the doorway to the kitchen and the east wall. It contains a small rectangular pass-through opening from the kitchen above a narrow counter surface with additional cupboard space below. The pass-through opening from the kitchen is closed with a vertically-sliding door (Figure 17).

The door- and window openings in the dining room are trimmed and finished in the same manner as those in the parlor and front hallway. The floor is of random-width boards. Presently it is covered with linoleum. Sheets of newspaper found under the linoleum are dated to 1938. The walls are plastered and wallpapered above the molded baseboard; the ceiling is plastered and painted. At the west end of the north wall a square section of the wall is recessed where a stovepipe thimble originally entered the brick chimney from a coal- or wood-burning stove. A heating grate above a duct from the old coal-fired furnace (no longer functional) is located in the northwest corner of the room. Presently the room is heated by a hot water or steam-heated radiator.

Rm. 103 – Kitchen

The kitchen occupies the northeast quadrant of the main block of the house (Figure 6). It is visually differentiated from the other more formal ground floor rooms by much simpler architectural trim and finishes (Figures 18 and 19). The door and window architraves are unmolded and unornamented; the top rails of the architraves extend about ½ inch beyond the outer edges of the architrave stiles. Nevertheless, the doors are four-panel doors like those in the front rooms.

The walls are covered with vertical wainscot to the height of the window sills, with plaster

above extending to the ceiling overhead (Figure 18). Presently the ceiling is covered by acoustic tiles and trimmed with a wooden molding at the junction with the walls.

Like the parlor and dining room, a recessed area in the west wall against the brick chimney (hidden behind the west wall) indicates where a stove pipe originally entered the chimney. Presently a stove pipe from the existing gas stove enters the chimney higher up the wall.

The room has five doorways and two double-hung sash windows. The windows occupy the north wall. A doorway in the south wall opens into the dining room, flanked by the small pass-through opening to the dining room (Figure 17); the east wall contains two doorways: one into the present bathroom within the one-story rear ell (Rm. 107), and one into Rm. 105 of the rear ell. The original function of the present bathroom space (Rm. 107) is unclear. It is unlikely that it was a bathroom when the house was built; it probably served as a kitchen pantry. Since no removal of wall materials occurred, this could not be verified.

The west wall of the kitchen has two closely-spaced doorways in its north half: one leads to the front stair hall and the other leads to the present staircase to the cellar under the front stairs to the second floor (Figure 18). The close arrangement of these two doorways is original, but the area now occupied by the stairs to the cellar was originally a closet; the stairs to the cellar were relocated here from the rear ell sometime in the early- to mid 20th century.

Second floor

The second floor of the house echoes the shape of the cellar, as the two projections from the dining room and the parlor are only one story in height (Figures 3 and 20). A short hallway runs diagonally from the top of the staircase in a southeasterly direction and provides access to three rooms: the large parlor chamber (Rm. 201) in the west half of the second story; a small rectangular room in the southeast corner (Rm. 202); and a smaller polygonal room in the northeast corner (Rm. 203). Both Rms. 201 and 202 have shallow built-in closets opening into the rooms from the wall separating the rooms; Rm. 203 does not have a closet now nor did it originally.

The trim around the doors and windows on the second floor is like those found in the kitchen – plain and unmolded – and the baseboards also lack moldings. The only exception is the baseboard along the east wall of the hallway from the staircase. The molding from the staircase to the west side of the doorway into Rm. 203 is stained a dark color and has the same top molding as the baseboards in

the parlor, dining room, and stair hall on the ground floor. The rest of the second floor hallway trim – the architraves around the doorways to the three bedrooms and the baseboard on the west side of the hallway – are all unmolded and stained a lighter shade than those on the ground floor. However, the doors themselves are all four-panel doors identical to those on the ground floor, and all have the same hardware as the doors on the ground floor. Rm. 201 has two normal width, double-hung sash windows in the west wall. Rm. 202 has a single, normal width, double-hung sash window in the east wall, and Rm. 203 has a single, normal width, double-hung sash window, also in the east wall. The second floor windows in the two gable ends (east and west walls) are located directly opposite each other. All four windows on the second floor have two panes of glass in each sash.

Of the three bedrooms only the parlor chamber (Rm. 201) was originally fitted with a stovepipe thimble into the brick chimney. Later when the hot-air coal-fired furnace was installed, only the parlor chamber was provided with a heating duct and grate in the floor from the furnace.

All of the rooms in the second floor have low knee walls with slanted ceilings above the knee walls and flat sections of ceiling towards the center of the rooms below the level of the after collar ties. All wall and ceiling surfaces are plastered.

The floors in the three bedrooms and hallway are of random-width softwood boards.

V. Conclusion and recommendations

The c.1886 Charboneau House at 6 Rockwell Avenue remains in a relatively unaltered state and in good physical condition. While it did undergo some changes during its nearly 130 year history, these were relatively minor: relocation of the rear staircase to the cellar from the rear ell to a former closet under the staircase to the second floor; installation of at least two generations of new heating systems to replace wood- or coal-fired stoves– a hot-air, coal-fired furnace, and a newer gas-fired furnace that ran a steam or hot-water heating system; installation of a single generation of electrical wiring; installation of a bathroom on the ground floor to replace a water closet in the cellar; and replacement/repair of the front porch posts. Beyond routine wallpapering and painting, the house suffered little damage and no other major alterations or removal of fabric. It still retains its original doors and windows, and in general the architectural trim and plaster walls and ceilings are intact and in good condition.

Some repairs will be necessary due to the fact that the building was unoccupied for a number of years: the brick chimney will need repair/repointing above the roof line, as will some of the brick foundation walls; the staircase to the cellar will need rebuilding; and the roof will need reshingling at the least, as the ceiling of the second floor rooms shows that the plaster had been repaired, likely due to a leak. In addition the kitchen and bathroom will need upgrading. The exterior walls are presently uninsulated, but given that the walls are stud -framed, that can easily be remedied.

If at all possible, the structure should be saved and a purchaser willing to rehabilitate the building in a sensitive manner should be found.

VI. Appendices

A. MHC Form B

B. House Plans and Elevations

Existing conditions

Plan-Cellar

Plan-Ground floor

Plan-Second floor

North Elevation

West Elevation

East Elevation

South Elevation

Original configuration

Plan-Cellar

Plan-Ground floor

Plan-Second floor

C. Photographs (Figures) in text

Appendix A. MHC Form B

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map

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

Q-14-02	Boston North		
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Town/City: Medford

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): East Medford

Address: 6 Rockwell Avenue

Historic Name: Carboneau House

Uses: Present: single-family residential

Original: single-family residential

Date of Construction: 1886-1889

Source: atlases and directories

Style/Form: Queen Anne end house

Architect/Builder: possibly D.H. Petty

Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: none

Major Alterations (*with dates*): none

Condition: poor

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 3,500 square feet

Setting: densely developed suburban single-family residential in a block of almost identical diminutive end houses.

☐ 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.

The Carboneau House, constructed between 1886 and 1889, is a diminutive story-and-a-half, two-bay, two-pile-deep end house with some additional massing. Its story-and-a-half structure, constructed in a manner such that the plate is located a half story above the level of the second floor, is indicative of “balloon” framing, although timber-frame structures of this type continued to be constructed well into the 19th century.¹ It has been suggested that the knee wall device was developed to accommodate the heavy entablatures then fashionable in Greek Revival buildings, but it was almost universally employed in smaller residential buildings in other mid-century styles such as Italianate, Second Empire and, in this case, Queen Anne, likely as an inexpensive alternative to full two-story construction. Like many other houses of the era, it rests on a half-submerged brick foundation. The building’s silhouette and interior spaces are enhanced by two single-story, hip-roofed rectangular bays: one located in the right side of the façade and the other in the rear pile of the right elevation. The roof of the façade bay extends the width of the façade, creating an open entrance porch. A single-story gabled rear ell extends from the back of the building. The arrangement of the entrance to one side, in this case, the left, the bays, and the fenestration pattern, suggests an interior plan of the side-hall type.² In this plan two formal reception rooms located on the right side of the building are accessed by formal horizontal and vertical circulation space aligned with the entrance. A third first-story space for kitchen and work is located behind the stair and in the rear ell.

Fairly typical of a large number of houses constructed in the city during the second half of the 19th century by real estate speculators to house single families, this example is rare for its degree of near-original preservation. With the exception of recently replaced porch posts and railing, the house retains virtually all of its original or early building fabric, including clapboard siding, trim and window sash. Its Queen Anne styling is derived from several decorative devices, including the paired elaborate brackets that support the open soffit at each corner, paneled bargeboards, textured shingle treatment at the top of the gable that has a slightly swelling base, and molded window hoods. A series of panels, which may or may not be original, decorated the façade bay. The house sits close to the street at a shallow setback on a minimal suburban lot; it is sited against the left lot line in order to provide room for a side yard, which currently serves as a parking space. The east side of Rockwell Avenue was developed with four other almost identical houses at about the same time between 1889

1 See: James L. Garvin, *A Building History of Northern New England* (University of New England Press, 2001) p. 24; This type of framing is depicted as early as 1852 in a pattern book published by E.S. Jones & Co. of Philadelphia under the original title *The Model Architect*, currently in print under the title *Sloan’s Victorian Buildings* (Dover, 1980) Design XXVII

2 See: Thomas C. Hubka, *Houses Without Names, Architectural Nomenclature and the Classification of America’s Common Houses* (University of Tennessee Press, 2013) p. 54.

and 1898. The rest of the street developed slowly after 1900 with an additional three houses toward the end of the block, which terminates in a dead end. The west side of the street remained open and in the ownership of the International Lard Oil Co. until after the turn of the 20th century. It is currently the site of an apartment complex which, by appearance, was constructed mid-20th 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.

The development of Rockwell Avenue took place between 1889, by which time the subject house had been constructed, and 1898, by which time all five of the early houses on the east side of the street had been constructed. The land on which the houses were built belonged to "D.H. Petty" in 1889; further information regarding this figure could not be ascertained through available records, although a title search is likely to identify him. He was not a resident of Medford. By between 1886 and 1890 the subject house was occupied by its namesake, Stanislas Carboneau (the spelling of his name varies, others include Carbonneau and Carbineau). Carboneau (1845-1934) was a native of Canada who immigrated in 1880 and became a naturalized citizen in 1895. He and his family, which included his wife, Malvina (b. 1850), also a native of Canada naturalized in 1895, son, Leonidas (b. 1873 in Canada) and daughter, Cora E. (b. 1891 in Massachusetts) resided at the house until as late as Carboneau's death in 1934. The subsequent owner was Frank R. Moran, a clerk at the First National Bank of Boston. Stanislas Carboneau was a dye man, operative and mill hand. Circumstances suggest that he was an employee of the Mystic Print and Dye Works, a producer of printed and dyed wool and cotton products that was located several blocks away between Linden and Locust streets. This firm was founded by John D. Street (1854-1921), a native of Paris, France who emigrated in 1876: "a pioneer in experimenting with aniline dyes and coloring in printing cotton cloth."³ The company was active between 1887 and 1910. After Carboneau concluded his career as a textile dyer he worked as a watchman in a bank.

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Medford City Directories, 1890, 1895, 1900, 1905, 1909, 1916, 1920, 1924, 1938

H.F. Walling Map of Medford, 1855

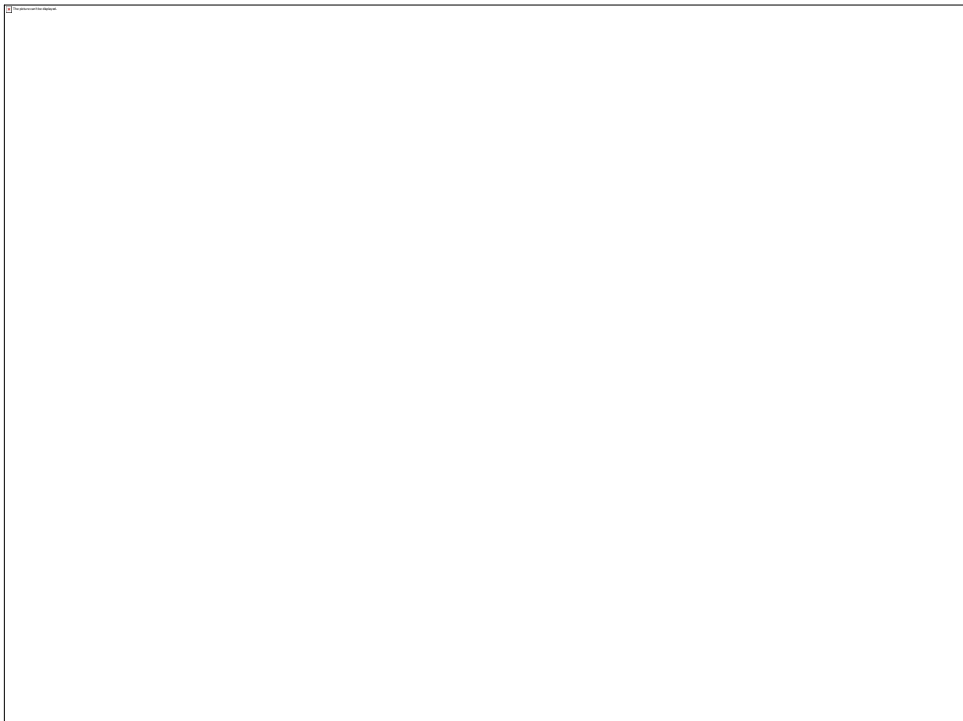
F. W. Beers 1875 Atlas, P. 108, Medford Square

1889 Atlas of Medford by George H. Walker Co., Boston

1898 Atlas of Medford by George A. Stadley Co., Boston

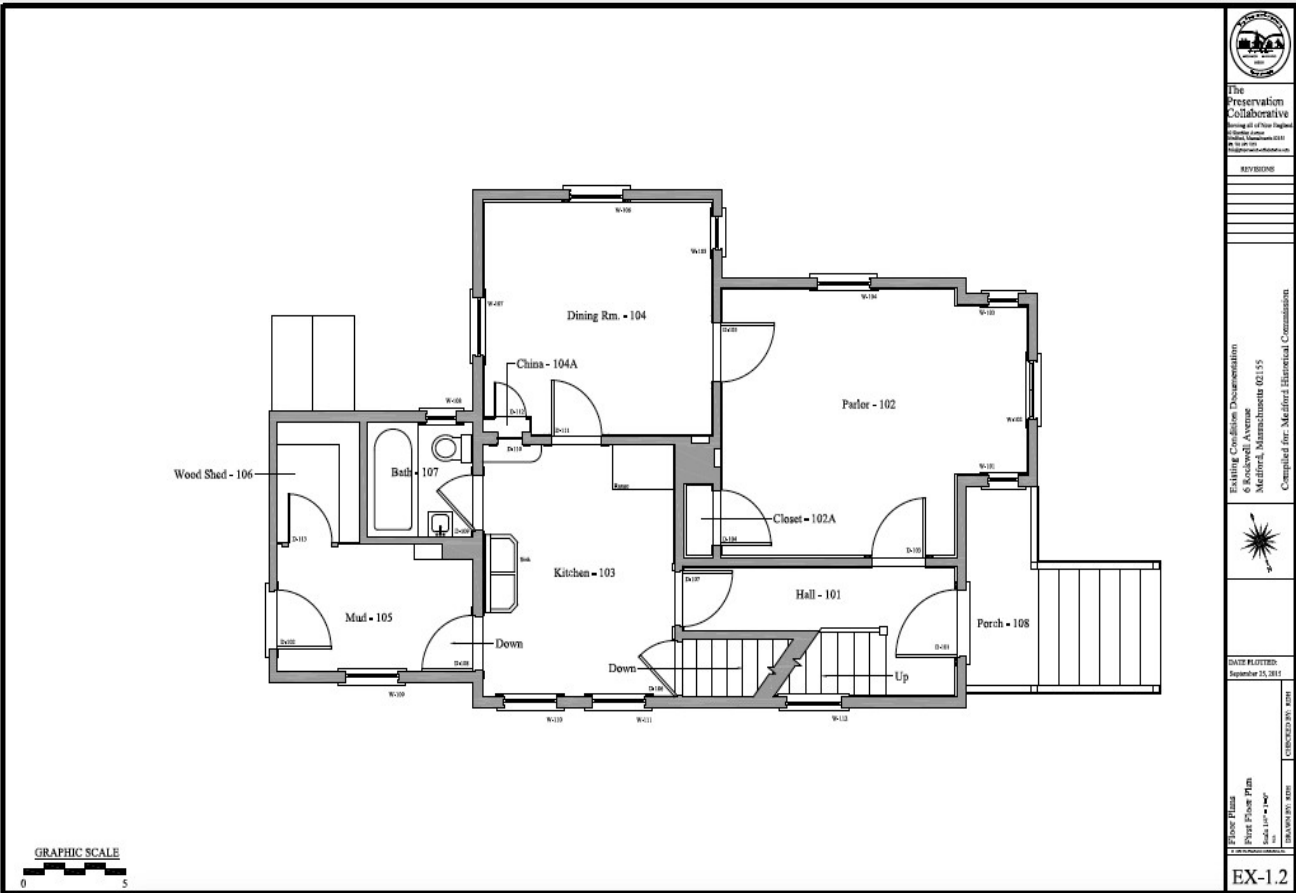
1900 Atlas of Medford by George A. Stadley Co., Boston

Medford Sanborn Maps: 1887, 1897, 1903, 1910



Right elevation

Plan-Ground floor



Architectural elevation drawing of the rear facade of a two-story house. The drawing shows a gabled roof with a chimney, a second-floor window, and a first-floor porch with stairs. Elevation markers on the right include RIDGE, CEILING, KNEE WALL, SECOND FLOOR, FIRST FLOOR, GRADE, and BASEMENT. A graphic scale is at the bottom left.

West Elevation



[illegible]

South Elevation



Original configuration

Plan-Cellar

Plan-Ground floor

Plan-Second floor

C. Photographs (Figures) in text