

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

Q-14-02

Boston
North

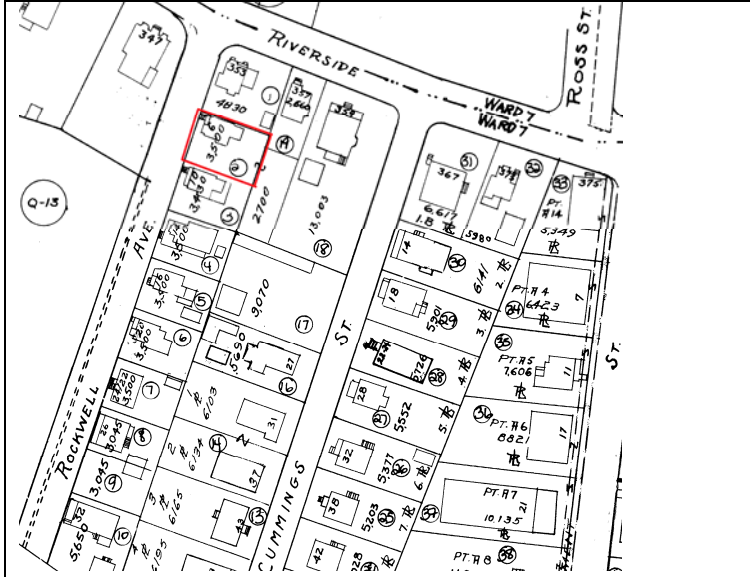
Town/City: Medford

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

Photograph



Locus Map



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.

Recorded by:

Organization:

Date (*month / year*):

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MEDFORD

6 ROCKWELL AVENUE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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☐ 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 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

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.

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Carboneau 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.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988 [database on-line] Ancestry.com.

Federal Census, 1900, 1920, 1930, 1940

Malden (Medford) Directories, 1886

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

³ *American Wool and Cotton Reporter*, Vol. 35 (Jan. 6, 1921) p. 33 (obituary).