

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

AL - TOWN GREEN

WRD15 1207

In Area no. C	Form no. 75/322-14
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BKL.1207



Town Brookline

Address 30 Warren Street

Name Moses Williams-Hunt House

Present use Residential

Present owner Lawrence Cutler

Description:

Date 1885

Source Brookline Chronicle- 9/5/85

Style Queen Anne/ Medieval Revival

Architect Peabody & Stearns

Exterior wall fabric Wood shingles/stone shed

Outbuildings (describe) Matching 1-story/

Other features Stone base; shingle & half-timbering; irreg. massing; 2 1/2 stories; multi-gabled roof; cross gable pierced by chimney; entrance in overhung half-timbered pavillion; two rear wings.

Altered Yes* Date _____

Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size: 41770 sq. feet

One acre or less Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 115'

Approximate distance of building from street _____

95'

6. Recorded by L. Larkin, W. Frontiero & S. Ofenstein

Organization BHC

Date Oct. 1977 Revised Aug. 79

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.

* **1 & 2 story extension for servants;**
1-story bay on south side, - 1901
Sun room over piazza - 1910
Addition to 2nd story - 1918
Stable remodeled into 1-family dwelling - 1948

7. Original owner (if known) Moses B. Williams

Original use Residential

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>X</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	<u>X</u>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

In 1877 Moses Williams bought the old Gardner-Gridley-Hulton place, dating from 1740, from Nathaniel Chapin. (See 16 Warren St., Harriet Woods, Hist. Sketches of Brookline, and Pamphlet File, Public Library). In 1885 he commenced building this house, and when it was finished he tore down the old house nearby. Williams was a lawyer, a Representative in the Massachusetts Legislature (1874-76), Chairman of the Town Selectmen (1879), and President of the State Street Trust Company and of the Fitchburg RR Co. This house, designed by Peabody and Stearns, is of special interest, as it presages the styles (Shingle and Tudor/Medieval Revival) of the large number of houses built in the 1890's and early 1900's on the old Bowditch estate near the reservoir (Walnut & Warren Sts.) and along Dudley St. and Welch Rd. It was one of a number of estates in the area that were landscaped by Olmsted Assoc. (1900). Peabody and Stearns, both Brookline residents, headed a nationally known firm with offices in other cities as well as Boston. In 1893 they were chosen to design the Massachusetts building at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago. (See Holden article for noted buildings). The firm designed many public buildings in Brookline as well as residences, of which this is one of the most impressive. In massing it is somewhat similar to their "Bleak House" for Ross Winan, completed in Newport, R. I. in 1893, considered one of their best designs. The irregular massing, liberal use of gables and dormers to articulate the mass, and "revival" touches such as half-timbering and leaded window panes give the house a certain romanticism which is enhanced by the setting.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.) The Peabody Touch: Peabody & Stearns of Boston, Wheaton, A. Holden, Journal SAH, May 1973, Vol. XXXII, No. 2
Brookline Chronicle, Sept. 5, 1885
Brookline Houses and Estates, Pamphlet File, Brookline Public Library
A History of the Town of Brookline, Mass, 1630-1906, The Brookline Press Co., Brookline, 1906
Atlases, 1884, 1888
Tax lists, 1876-77
Deeds, Norfolk Co. Courthouse, Dedham, Lib. 195, f. 141, Lib. 197, f. 74
Plans in Boston Public Library
Plan, Engineering Dept., 1850, L/12/D/16

