

NRIND NRMRA 10/17/1985

FORM B - BUILDING

Area <u>W</u>	Form no. <u>39-199/5</u>
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Town Brookline MRA

Address 50 Stanton Road

Historic Name Robert S. Davis House

Use: Original residential

Present residential

Ownership:  Private individual  
 Private organization

Public

Original owner Robert S. Davis

Location in relation to nearest streets and other buildings



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1859-1860

Source tax lists

Style Italianate

Architect information not available

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings brick garage (1917)

Major alterations (with dates)

remove front porch; add porches on rear of house

Moved no Date

Approx. acreage 5485 square feet

Setting Set on corner of Greenough and Stanton, front of house fully visible from Stanton Rd., low hedge, approx.

15 foot set back Newton Quadrangle  
UTM Reference:  
19/3247704688860  
Map #: 58

Recorded by Carla Penka

Organization Brookline Historical Com

Date Fall, 1980

Atlas page - 39-199/5

Staple additional sheets here;

50 Stanton Road meets NR criteria C, being one of a small number of Italianate style homes in Brookline which fall into the category of centered gable plan and retains its original detailing such as double brackets underneath a deep cornice; bracketed windowheads and rectangular arched window crowns; paired doors with large pane glazing; quoins; two story bay windows; and paired windows.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

Number 50 Stanton Road is one of four Italianate style houses on Stanton Road: (see also forms for #22 (5 Lincoln Rd.), 25, and 44.) Typical features of the style found in the design of this house include the rounded third floor windows, quoins, double brackets under the cornice, deep eaves, double doors at the front entrance, two light sashes, the central gable emphasizing the front entrance, and the framed windows on the third floor as well as the heavily capped windows on the first. Similar window capping is found at the second story of #44, 22 and 25 Stanton. The use of double brackets is also seen at the other houses.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

Older than #44 Stanton, but built after #s. 22 and 25, this house constructed on land which had belonged to Davis' father, Robert Sharp Davis. The latter Davis inherited the land from his maternal aunt, Susanna Sharp who had married Samuel Craft. Robert Sharp Davis descended from Ebenezer Davis who had purchased land in Brookline as early as 1746. The Davis family also owned land around what is now Linden Street: Thomas Aspinwall Davis, the great uncle of the owner of this house, was a mayor of Boston and lived at 29 Linden Place (See form)

Robert Sharp Davis was born in Brookline, the son of Robert Sharp and Lucy Stearns Davis, in 1811. In 1825, he entered the firm of Crocker and Brewster, publishers; several years later, he joined the firm of Lincoln, Edmands, and Company, and in 1835, he succeeded them and formed the firm of Robert S. Davis and Company. He published schoolbooks in Boston until the year of his death, 1875. Among his more prominent publications were the mathematical works of Benjamin Greenleaf.

Davis married Mary Shannon in 1837; one of their six children was L. Shannon Davis who built #36 Sumner Road.

Examples of the Italianate style in Brookline include the common and self-contained front gable arrangement whose form is closely related to the Greek Revival style; the box shaped house with hipped roof and, in some cases, cupola; the rectangular or squarish centered gable plan, in many respects similar to the simple hipped roof variety; and the asymmetrical (in almost all cases L-shaped) configuration which breaks out of the restrained square or rectangular house form and reflects, along with the Gothic Revival style, the influence of the Picturesque mode.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES History of Brookline, Massachusetts- 1906, pp 226, 227

Maps-1844, 1855, 1871

Atlas-1874, 1884, 1893

Tax lists-1856-1867

