FORM B – BUILDING

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

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
141-13-00	Boston South	BKL.W	BKL.1734

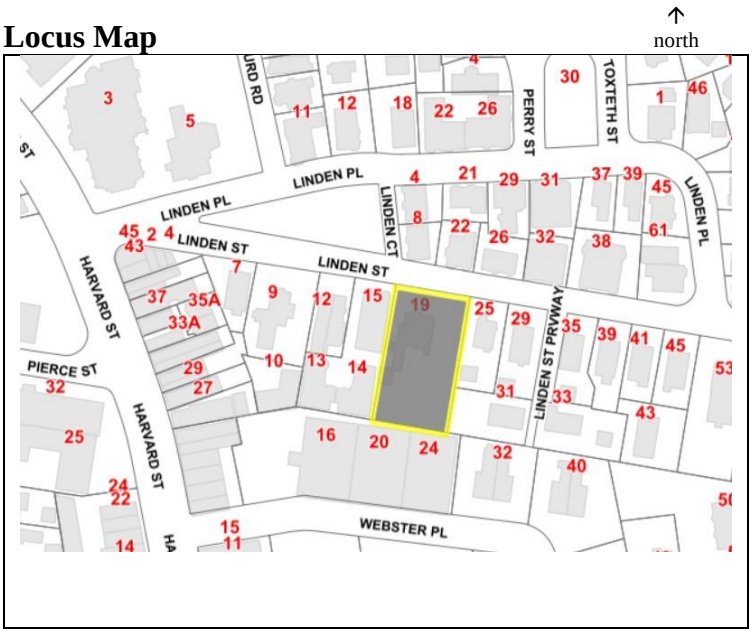
NR IND and MRA, 10/17/1985

Photograph



Façade (east) and north elevations.
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Locus Map



Recorded by: W. Frontiero and K. K. Broomer, consultants
Organization: Brookline Planning Department
Date (*month / year)*: September 2021

Town/City: Brookline

Place: *(neighborhood or village)*:
The Lindens

Address: 19 Linden Street

Historic Name: John N. Turner House

Uses: Present: residential – two-family
Original: residential – single-family

Date of Construction: ca. 1846

Source: Norfolk County deeds

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: see narrative

Exterior Material:
Foundation: not visible
Wall/Trim: wood clapboards and trim
Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
n/a

Major Alterations *(with dates)*:
none visible

Condition: excellent

Moved: **no** ☒ **yes** ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 17,700 s.f.

Setting: Heterogeneous residential neighborhood, developed principally in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Mostly large, single-family wood frame houses in a densely developed streetscape. Unusually large, generally flat lot, with the house positioned to face the side. Moderate front setback is maintained chiefly in lawn; a wood picket fence lines the sidewalk edge.

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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.

19 Linden Street is a rectangular building rising 2½ stories to a side-gabled roof. An interior chimney protrudes above the ridgeline at the southern end of the main block. Walls are sheathed with clapboards and trimmed with a flat sill board, paneled corner pilasters, and a wide flat entablature at the roof edge. Windows are typically regularly arrayed, occur singly, and have 6/6 sash with band molding. A full-length verandah spans the five-bay façade, with Doric columns supporting a wide flat entablature and low hipped roof. Within the porch, the center entrance comprises a single-leaf door with sidelights and a transom joined by channeled trim and corner blocks, all framed by smooth pilasters. Two windows flank the doorway to the north, while only one window is positioned to the south. Facing the street, the north elevation has a pedimented gable end with, an angled bay window centered on the first floor, two windows symmetrically placed on the second story, and one window centered in the flushboarded tympanum. The rear (west) elevation is not clearly visible from the street. A small, one-story porch with two Doric columns, a flat entablature, and a flat or very low-pitched roof leads to a rear appendage with a French door facing the street.

Very well preserved and maintained, 19 Linden Street is a significant example of early 19th century residential development in Brookline. Notable architectural features include the building's side orientation, conservative side-gable form, stylish porch, pedimented and flushboarded gable-end, ambitious but simple wall trim, and intact fenestration, window sash, and trim.

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.

One of four National Register-listed houses on Linden Street that date to Brookline's first planned residential subdivision (1843), the John N. Turner House is the only example that preserves the dimensions of the original building lot. Featuring easy access to Boston, the mid-19th century neighborhood encompassed Linden Street and Linden Park (BKL.913, NRIND/ NRMRA), in addition to Linden Place and Linden Square (BKL.912, NRIND/NRMRA). Deeds refer to the subdivision as a whole as Linden Place. Thomas Aspinwall Davis (1798-1845), a Brookline native, Boston jeweler, and tenth mayor of Boston at the time of his death, acquired the real estate interests to this former orchard land from his family members. Davis built his residence, now 29 Linden Place (1844, BKL.1724, NRIND/NRMRA, see form), at the center of the subdivision, and sold surrounding building lots for development. Increasing development pressures in the late 19th century led to further subdivision in the neighborhood to accommodate residential infill construction.

John N. Turner purchased this building lot in 1846 from Bela Stoddard, a carpenter and abutter on the south, who may have built the house. Bela Stoddard (1787-1855) was born in Hingham and moved to Boston, where he reportedly worked as builder and resided for many years at the corner of Tremont and Hollis Streets. Construction of two houses on Beacon Hill in Boston are attributed to Stoddard: 61 Chestnut Street (1824, BOS.16025), and 27 West Cedar Street (1834, BOS.15192). He arrived in Brookline by 1849. On Webster Place immediately south of the Turner House, Bela Stoddard built the brick double house at 30-32 Webster Place (1855, BKL.1731, NRIND/NRMRA) that later became the residence of his daughter, Ann Eliza Lincoln (Mrs. Albert L.). He may have also been involved in the construction of the clapboard-clad double house next door owned by his son, George, at 38-40 Webster Place (ca. 1855, BKL.1752, NRIND/ NRMRA).

A partner in the dry goods business of Turner, Wilson and Browne on Federal Street in Boston [Benka], John N. Turner (1811-1864) was later recorded as a bank president in the 1860 Brookline census. He and his wife, Harriet (Dana), resided here with their family and three women from Ireland and North Wales employed in the household as domestic servants. Turner owned the

property until 1864. William H. Abercrombie was a longtime owner, from 1877 into the 1920s. Employed as bank clerk in Deerfield, Mass., he relocated to Brookline with his family and resided here in 1880 with his mother, sisters, and servants. By 1920, he shared the house with one sister and two maids. Abercrombie did not appear to be engaged in further employment while in Brookline. The McElroy family owned the house for at least 53 years, from 1923 into the late 1970s. In 1930, Andrew McElroy and his sisters ran a lodging house here. They immigrated from Canada to the United States about 1923. Andrew McElroy was the proprietor of a print shop, while the lodgers were employed in various professional pursuits and trades: stenographers for a hospital and a chamber of commerce; sales positions in a candy store and department store; along with a lawyer, radio mechanic, milliner, and painting contractor. By 1965, Alice B. McElroy still lived here in retirement with younger sister Mary, a bookkeeper, and two tenants.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

19 Linden Street (BKL.1734). Inventory form prepared by Carla Benka, Brookline Historical Commission. October 1980.
Brookline Preservation Commission. "The Lindens" walking tour brochure. Reproduced by the Brookline Historical Society, 2006. http://brooklinehistoricalsociety.org/history/presComm/linden.asp. Accessed March 2021.
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Brookline maps and atlases: 1844, 1874, 1888, 1897, 1907, 1913, 1919, 1927, 1956, 1965, 1976.
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Brookline and Boston directories.
Brookline street lists of residents/poll tax payers (title varies): 1965.
Lincoln, Mrs. Albert L. [Ann Eliza Stoddard]. Obituary. *The Chronicle, Brookline* (October 26, 1895), 1:4.
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Stoddard, Bela. Birth record, Hingham (August 23, 1787). *Massachusetts, U. S., Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988*. Database and images. www.ancestry.com.
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Woods, Harriet F. *Historical Sketches of Brookline, Mass*. Boston, MA: Robert S. Davis and Company, 1874.

NRIND NRMRA 10/17/1985

AREA	FORM NO.
W	1734 30/141-13

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116





Town Brookline MRA

Address 19 Linden Street

Historic Name N/A

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1843-1844

Source Map, Historical Sketches of Brookline

Style Greek Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings barn

Major alterations (with dates) none

Moved no **Date** N/A

Approx. acreage Less than one acre

Setting The house is set on the east side of the lot, thus creating a large side yar a barn is set at the rear lot line, creating a spacious back yard.

Recorded by Carla Benka

Organization Brookline Hist. Comm.

Date October 1980

Boston South Quadrangle
UTM Reference: 19/325520/4688840
Map #: 43

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

Of the three Greek Revival-style houses on this street (see also #12 and #53 Linden Street), #19 remains in the finest and most pristine condition. Like #12, its pedimented gable end faces the street, but unlike #12, the porch of this house is in fine condition. Other evidence of the Greek Revival style can be seen in the porch columns and frieze, the main cornice and frieze, pilastered cornerboards, and front doorway.

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

Like the other two Greek Revival-style houses on Linden Street, this house was built by a merchant: John Turner was a partner in the firm of J. N. Turner, E. C. Wilson, and George Browne, which operated a drygoods concern on Federal Street in Boston. Like Charles Scudder, who lived at #12 Linden, Turner was active in the Harvard Congregational Society and audited its books for a number of years.

It is interesting to note that Turner and his neighbors at #12 and #53 commuted into Boston from the Village, even before the arrival of the railroad in the late 1840s. Access to Boston was provided by the Mill Dam Road, which, when opened in the 1820s, lessened the isolation of Brookline and began to create pressure for the development of the land nearby. The land on which Linden Street was laid out had been part of the Davis farm, part of which came into the hands of the widow of Ebenezer Davis in 1822. Lucy Davis, who later married James Holden, was the last owner of this farmland; when the property was sold, it was subdivided into residential lots in 1843. See #29 Linden Place for information on the subdivision. (Form 31-147-9; Map #39)

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

#19 Linden Street meets National Register Criteria A and C, being one of a small number of houses that remain from the 1843 Linden Place residential subdivision planned by Thomas Aspinwall Davis and a rare local example of the Greek Revival style. Because*

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Maps: 1830, 1844, 1855
Tax lists: 1852-1870
Atlas: 1874, 1884, 1893
Land Ownership in Brookline
Historical Sketches of Brookline
Boston Directory, 1852

*there is a substantial amount of modern infill in the area, the surviving components of the Linden Place development are being nominated individually.



19 Linden St (3/92)



19 Linden St (3/92)



19 Linden St (3/92)

BKL.1734

19 Linden St. (30/141-13)

Brookline (Ma) MRA
Town of Brookline Map Jan 1981
Scale 1/2" = 200ft.

