

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	NOR.20
Historic Name:	Harris, Nicholas - Rockwood, Elisha House
Common Name:	White, Dr. Phillip House
Address:	76 Union St
City/Town:	Norfolk
Village/Neighborhood:	Norfolk
Local No:	13-41-40, 54
Year Constructed:	c 1725
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Colonial
Use(s):	Agricultural; Box Factory; Dairy; Nursery; Saw Mill; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Archaeology, Historic; Architecture; Industry
Area(s):	NOR.A: Norfolk Town Center
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Granite; Stone, Uncut



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 6:23: PM

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Town: Norfolk
Place: N/A
Address: 76 Union Street
Historic Name: Nicholas Harris House
(Was known as the Benjamin Rockett house, but this is incorrect.)

Uses: Present - Residence
Original - Residence, farm, box factory, mill, agricultural, dairy

Date of Construction: House Circa 1720
Barn Circa 1720's

Source: Deeds, Probate Records, Maps & Books

Style/Form: House: Center Entrance Chimney Colonial
Barn: Post and Beam Construction

Architect/Builder: N/A

Exterior Material: Wood Clapboard

Foundation: House: Granite & Fieldstone
Barn: Granite & Fieldstone

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Large Barn, Outhouse

Major Alterations (with dates): N/A
(Please note that Kathy Broomer's determination that the rear el was mid-20th century is incorrect. Based on deeds it was likely in existence prior to 1837.)

Condition: Very good

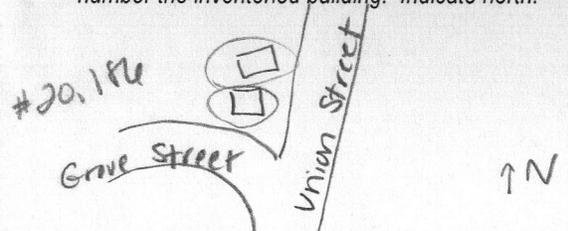
Moved: NO YES, Date

Acreage: 2.9

Setting: Rural Residential. Center chimney colonial with large barn approximately 30 feet from the house (neither moved).

Four empty rectangular boxes for additional information.

number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



Recorded by Elissa Flynn-Poppey and Thomas C. Poppey

Organization Norfolk Historical Commission and individuals

Date (month / year) October 2006
Please note that this form supersedes the form submitted by Kathy Broomer.

Assessor's Number 13-41-40
USGS Quad Franklin
Area(s) A
Form Number 20, 186

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

House (#20)

Seventy-six Union Street is an outstanding example of a center entrance chimney colonial home. Set on a small hill, the home is a 2½-story colonial, gable end style home with a stone foundation built circa 1720 and contains a symmetrical façade based on the center entryway. There are four 12/12 sashes on the first floor and five 8/12 sashes on the second floor front façade. There are additional 12/12 and 8/12 windows throughout the sides and rear of the house. The floor plan is L-shaped with the ell located at rear of the right side of the house. There is a second bee hive fireplace located in the rear ell. The rear ell was in existence in 1837 as referenced by deeds. There is a protruding circular bay window on the left hand side of the house. The two chimneys provided access for 7 fireplace entrances, while 2 have been since covered. There is one cooking oven (beehive) on the first floor in the summer kitchen part of the ell. On the second floor there is also a second cooking oven (beehive). It appears from past deeds this second floor cooking oven was used as an in-law. A third primary cooking (bee hive) fireplace has been closed on the first floor. The flooring throughout the house is primarily exposed wide king pine native to the New England area.

The mill existed on the property until the 1940's, a picture is attached. On the property remains foundations of other buildings, which according to deeds and tax records appears to be an ice house and a tan house. The washing stone, the outhouse, ancient wells, stone foundations, the original riverbed, the dam and the unique rock formations still exist on the property.

Prior Survey Completed by Kathy Broomer

Please note the following are significant inaccuracies in Ms. Broomer's survey:

1. There is no one-story addition that was added on in the mid-20th century. Please note that the ell was in place according to deeds in 1837. Additionally, the rear ell contains a bee hive oven, original wide pine floors and post and beam construction.
2. The original mantle in the dining room was not restored in 2004. One small piece of wood was added to bring it up to code, everything else is original.
3. The renovations that she notes in 2002 are also incorrect. Shingles that were placed over old clapboard on the front of the house were removed and the original clapboard sanded and painted.
4. The exterior renovation of the 3 window additions she states occurred in 1976 is also incorrect, it was in the early 1940's. We have documented photographs from the White/Freeman family from the 1940's and also spoke to them regarding the installation of the window.

Barn (MHC #186)

The homestead also includes an impressive three story barn approximately 30 feet from the dwelling structure. The barn construction consists of post and beam with mortise & tendon joints used throughout. It is the most intact barn in Norfolk. The foundation is native granite and stones with a walk in cellar and the exterior walls are covered with wood shingle. The barn is still in its original condition with very few minor repairs. The barn still has many windows with much of the old glass intact. Additionally, it has the original cistern believed to have been created by Obediah Harris, a cooper and former owner of the property. Found within the barn was an old seeder, a barrel believed to be made by the Harris family, a cart, victrola, and many other items unique to this property and its history. Together the dwelling and barn represent a significant historical asset.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE see continuation sheet

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.

Blake and Harris

Seventy-six Union Street was acquired in November 1725 by Nicholas Harris from James Blake, brother of Nicholas's wife Hannah Blake. Hannah Blake was the daughter of John and Joanna (Whiting) Blake. The Blake and Whiting families were one of the first settlers to reclaim Wrentham after the King Philips War (1675-76)¹. In 1689 John Blake married Joanna Whiting. Joanna Whiting was the daughter of Nathaniel Whiting, Jr. and Joanna Gay. The Fruitland's Museum in Harvard, Massachusetts has the original

¹ John Whiting was a member of the House of Representatives for Suffolk County representing Wrentham in 1787 and 1791.

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agreement, the James Printer Deed, that John Blake and nine English settlers made with eleven American Indians on August 25, 1686. In 1686 Selectman were chosen for the first time in Wrentham and John Blake was one of the four chosen. In 1688, the salary of Reverend Mann was to be paid in part by county payment, of which ten people agreed to pay certain sums toward the salary, the remaining twenty-six request to be taxed proportional parts. Of the thirty-six taxpayers, John Blake was the wealthiest. In 1692 the settlement was engaged in ordinary affair of laying out town lines and taxing the citizens. This tax list contained forty-two names; John Blake's having the largest sum set against it. General John Blake was a famous surveyor of his time. In 1690, John Blake of Wrentham was accused of providing the Indians with guns and ammunition. Mary Whiting (relative to Joanna) testified that she heard some Indians state that they had received liquor at John Blake's house.

On December 2, 1723 John Blake, Jr. prepared his will and gave his son James Blake power of attorney before he went on a sea voyage. Captain John Blake of Wrentham, father of Nicholas' wife Hannah, originally owned the property, but went on a sailing adventure never to return. Nicholas Harris, a cooper, purchased 20 acres from James Blake for £50. "Recorded right after that deed is John Blake's power of attorney to his son James, dated December 2, 1723." Nicholas, Hannah and their children were members of the church in Wrentham and presented their five children for baptism on July 7, 1728. On March 3, 1728/9 Nicholas was paid £1 for killing a wild cat. On May 16, 1729 Nicholas was also on a list of names of inhabitants to assist the surveyors of highways in the town. On March 2, 1746/7 Nicholas was elected Surveyor of Plank Board at the annual town meeting. On May 1, 1768 Nicholas informed the selectman that he had taken in Zilpha Gratax into their home. Although there is no specific reference to the construction of the house or barn, there is reference to the "Nicholas Harris dwelling house" in a 1742 deed from James Blake to John Blake. The Blake's, and specifically Capt. John Blake, were prominent in the founding and establishment of Wrentham.

Nicholas and Hannah sold their home to their son, Obediah on February 14, 1771 for £150. Obediah (aka Obadiah) was born in Wrentham on July 7, 1736. Obadiah married Lois Ellis on June 27, 1759. Lois was the daughter of Ebenezer and Elizabeth (Barnard) Ellis of Dedham. "Not only was Obadiah appointed administrator on the estate of Ebenezer Ellis, late of Dedham, wheelwright, on 14 March 1777, three of Lois's sisters agreed on 17 March 1777 'our trusty friend and Brother Obadiah Harris of Wrentham' might administer on the estate 'of our Honored Father Ebenezer Ellis of Dedham.'"

Confirmed by Mary Shaw Attwood, Obediah's great-great-granddaughter, he was at Ticonderoga on July 6, 1758 when Lord Howe was killed and at Fort William Henry when it capitulated to Montcalm. In 1758 Obediah Harris kept a diary which contains accounts of daily life with reflective passages of his family and the war. Obediah's diary is housed at the Henry E. Huntington Library in San Marino, California. In his diary he chronicled some of the following events:

- "Private Obediah Harris, a carpenter from Wrentham, was employed at the beginning of the 1758 campaign in constructing a hospital at Fort Edward and in erecting a stockaded fort near Lake George. Obediah was not permanently employed as a carpenter he also spent time with his battalion, building and maintaining roads between Albany and Fort Edward."
- "Troops were paid additional wages for certain fatigue pay, such as carpentry, which acquired them an additional 1s. 7d daily. Obediah referenced that fatigue pay could accrue to a sizable sum if a soldier were steadily employed 'on the king's work.'"
- July 1, 1758: "Soldiers detailed to work with civilian carpenters refused to obey orders unless they received additional pay; they required a written assurance from their commanding officer before 'part' of them returned to work."
- On July 8, 1758, was a difficult day in the war, "but Obediah voiced no criticism of the individuals in charge of the 'woeful day.' He wrote 'the men was ordered up before the breastwork to take it by force. And the French discharged their cannon upon us and cut us down in great numbers as the battle begun. At the beginning of the fight our men prevailed and got part of the breastwork. And the French seeing our men prevail, made as though they would surrender, and cease firing; pulled off their hats; set up an English flag. And our men thought we had got the breastwork, and the French turned and fired upon us, and killed our men in great numbers, by which they were forced to retreat. And the enemy took full possession of the breastwork again, but our men tried the second and third time, but could not prevail, but was killed till the ground was almost covered with the dead bodies and we was forced to retreat....And orders came for us to retreats to the boats, and we got back at the break of the ninth day, this. Came off as fast we could and got to Fort William Henry at the sun setting.'"
- "On August 21, 1758, Obediah noted that the men in his battalion were 'so cross and touchy that they can't speak to one another.'"
- Obediah celebrated with the following poem ("fourteeners") when provisions arrived on August 22, 1758, averting a mass desertion:

"And now provisions come again,
And we have some to eat;
Blest be the man that got the pease

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And he that got the meat!
 The bread also to us is come,
 And rice enough, in store;
 And some fresh beef for our relief:
 What can we wish for more?
 Now we begin to live again_
 The butter, it is come,
 And for our money we can have
 Our bottles filled with rum.
 Yet some of us, they do complain,
 Are all filled up with evil;
 For of money they do spend,
 And the Dutch they beat the d----l.
 Their sauce unto us they will sell,
 Their price, it is so bad,
 For squash and beans and parsley, too,
 Which makes us very mad.
 The sutler he will 'tend full fast
 And for our wages call;
 When we got home, we shall have none-----
 For we shall spend it all."

- "In September 1758 Obediah Harris uniquely made a series of entries in his journal that documented his unit's ration level and his comrades' behavior. On the nineteenth: 'We drew stores for seven days. We had four pounds of pork, six pounds of flour, three gills of rice, three ounces of butter. That is all the provision for seven days.'"
- On October 2, 1758, he complained that "'our allowance for a week is not sufficient for four days' and he further noted that otherwise he and his unit had 'nothing to eat but what we get out of the Dutch people.'"
- On October 9, 1758, Obediah fell ill, "he was left along with other invalids of his unit, 'at a Dutchman's barn' near Halfmoon which served 'as an hospital for sick of our regiment.'"
- Obediah's last entry of the campaign records that he on October 23, 1758, he traveled 'seven mile to Medway and dined, and from thence five miles to my father's house in Wrentham."
- "Obediah returned to farming; his next entry speaks eloquently for his subsequent life: 'Wrentham, April the 20th, 1785: Where I am yet and ever like to be.' On the same day, he recorded a note due him of £178 6s. 4 3/4d., the quarter-century that intervened between entries was a prosperous one."

Obediah was also a strong patriot in the Revolutionary War, serving many times. Obediah served in Captain Samuel Fisher's Co., Colonel Ephraim Wheelock's regiment for 4 days.

In 1767 Obediah boarded the schoolmaster for 34 days. Obadiah held several offices in Wrentham: in 1768 he was chosen hog reeve, in 1774 a surveyor of highways, and in 1776 and 1779 tithingman. In 1771 he was taxed 1 horse, 2 oxen, 2 cows, 22 sheep and 1 tan house. "In June 1776 he paid for six meat tubs. In 1776 - 1778 was paid for Reuben Pond's school district. In 1779 he agreed to provide two loads of firewood for the Reverend Joseph Bean. In 1778 and 1779, he was on the jury list for the Superior Court, and in 1780 and 1781 he served as constable."

Service to his country again called him. He was also a private in Capt. Samuel Fisher's Company, Col. Ephraim Wheelock Regiment, which marched to Warwick, Rhode Island, on an alarm of December 8, 1776 and served for four days. Obediah's son, Charles Harris, was also a revolutionary soldier enlisting at the age of sixteen. After a short service Charles received a commission as Sergeant.

Obadiah went on to combine the family parcel with other lots culminating in a homestead of approximately 100 acres in the late 1770's and early 1780's. This 100 acre parcel would continue as a contiguous parcel until the mid 1980's. Both Obediah, and his father Nicholas, were coopers by trade and a large cistern believed to be constructed by the Harris' still exists in the cupola of the barn. Additionally, there are barrels within the barn and the house believed to have been built by the Harris family. In 1784, Obediah subsequently sold the property and structures to Jeremiah Mann (a relative of Elisha's) and Elisha Rockwood. After he sold the house Obediah and his family moved to Hallowell, Kennebec County, Maine where he became a deacon of the Old South Church.

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Rockwood

Mann immediately sold his half interest to Elisha Rockwood. This transaction began a long holding of the property in the Rockwood family, which lasted until 1926. Elisha Rockwood was a known miller at the time of the purchase of the property.

A patriarch of the Wrentham Rockwood's, Benjamin Rockett (later changed to Rockwood) was a documented participant in King Phillip's War. As the story is described, in 1676 Benjamin Rockett was searching for his stray horse in the woods about three miles northeast of the town center of Norfolk, discovered a band of forty-two Indians late one afternoon in March 1676, during the time of King Phillip's War. Rockett followed the Indians until they camped and then returned to town to secure help from the local men and to guarantee the safety of the women, children, and the old and infirm. With thirteen men under the direction of Captain Ware and led by Rockett they marched toward the Indian encampment before daylight where a battle ensued. This minor skirmish was brief and resulted in a victory for the pioneers.

Benjamin and his brother, Nathaniel Rockett (aka Rockwood), resettled in Wrentham in 1690 after the King Philip War. They were among the first settlers to return to the village to rebuild their homes after the destruction of the war. Benjamin was one of ten men who organized the first Congregational Church in Wrentham center. Rockett lived to be 93 years old and received a pension from the General Court for his service during King Philip's War.

Elisha Rockwood also served during the Revolutionary War. In 1775, Private Benjamin Rockwood served under Captain Oliver Pond for 8 days. This company was formed in anticipation of the alarm and because all physical able men had to serve. Elisha Rockwood also served under Captain Elijah Pond as one of the five companies "who marched from Wrentham on the nineteen Day of April in the Colony Service" in 1775. "They were of the militia who constituted General Washington's command in the siege of Boston, and out of them were mainly recruited our quota of the Continentals who followed him in his campaigns."

Also in 1775 Private Benjamin Rockwood and Private Elisha Rockwood served under Captain Thomas Bacon's Company. This Company was the contribution of the west precinct to the battle of Bunker Hill and the investment of Boston.

At the time of his purchase of this house and farm in Wrentham, Elisha Rockwood was attending the Congregational Church in Wrentham center. In 1795 a contentious split occurred in Wrentham tearing the church congregation apart. Elisha supported Reverend David Avery and with one of the largest subscriptions of \$50.00, contributed to the construction and founding of the Congregational Church in North Wrentham Parish now Norfolk. (The structure burned in 1922). His support of the Church continued until another split in 1832 when the inhabitants of North Wrentham decided to set off from Wrentham to form their own church. They formed the Religious Society in North Wrentham - The Cleaveland Religious Society. Benjamin Rockwood was also member of the original founding group that broke away. That split was Norfolk's second. The first was Rev. Avery from the Original Congregational Church in Wrentham, the second was a split in the North Parish only lead by Moses Thacher that formed the Cleveland Religious Society. They shortly thereafter built the Federated Church. This group was originally part of the North Parish congregation that met on the structure on the hill. Then in 1833 a group of men, including Benjamin Rockwood, conveyed for the sum of \$30.00 dollars to the Cleveland Religious Society property to build a house of worship in the town. Benjamin Rockwood, Jr. was admitted to the Cleveland Religious Society on March 18, 1834, and Elisha was admitted on April 24, 1837. He was also one of the founders of the present Federated Church in Norfolk. Elisha was not only one of the founders, he and his son Benjamin Rockwood, Jr. were subscribers to a new church construction, currently the Norfolk Federated Church.

Benjamin Rockwood was also farmer and was on the Civil War Draft list. Benjamin's son, Edwin O. Rockwood in 1862 was also a soldier, but not on the draft list. Edwin O. Rockwood operated a farm, a successful nursery and florist on this site in 1890 and for several years in the early 1900's.

From 1784 to 1926 the property remained in the Rockwood family. Rockwood Road in Norfolk center is named after the family. The owners of the house dammed the little river that runs behind the house creating a water power source. It appears the Harris family began also dammed the property, which was later fortified by the Rockwood family. The mill/factory, on the north side of the pond, was quite large as shown in old photographs and according to the White/Freeman family who demolished the mill in the 1940's. The home has seen many uses during its long existence. In the early days the small pond and stream produced sufficient power to operate a saw mill. In later years the Rockwood family built carriages, wooden shoe boxes, coffins, special watch parts, and even a few organs. It is the local belief that the box factory was one of the first to build ready-made coffins. In addition, the Rockwood family

used the home as a mill, farm, diary, and most recently as a florist early in the 20th century. It is also believed that due to the close proximity to the Stony Brook Mill (property also owned by the Blake Family) and the American Felt Mill that the factory made boxes for these two mills.

There are many Rockwood graves at the Norfolk Cemetery. Elisha Rockwood's grandson, also Elisha, has on his tombstone "Elisha Rockwood 1814- 1892 six generations to Richard Rockwood from England 1666."

White/Freeman

Dr. Philip White and his family lived at 76 Union Street from 1939 until his death in 1987. While still remaining on the family property, in the early 1980's Dr. White moved across the street into a new home and his grandson, Mark Freeman began restoration work on the original dwelling house. In 1970, Dr. Philip White was appointed to the permanent post of Town Historian - a post established by vote at a special town meeting. Additionally, he was one of the founding members of the Norfolk Historical Commission. Additionally, Dr. White was largely responsible for writing "Early Norfolk Revisited" in commemoration of Norfolk's 100th anniversary.

Dr. White's daughter, Elsa White, married into the Freeman family. Her father-in-law was a prominent member of the educational community in Norfolk and the local grammar school is named after him, Freeman-Centennial School. Mark Freeman, grandson of Philip White, lived in the family homestead for over ten years, lovingly updating and restoring the dwelling house while maintaining the original character of the home.

Proprietors of 76 Union Street

2001 - Present Thomas Poppey & Elissa Flynn-Poppey; Norfolk Registry of Deeds - Book 15866, Page 89

1997 - 2001 Richard Cronin & Julie Collins (Cronin); Norfolk Registry of Deeds - Book 20101, Page 25

White/Freeman Period (1939 - 1997)

1987 - 1997 Mark & Ann Freeman (Mark Freeman, grand-son of Phillip H. White); Norfolk Registry of Deeds - Book 7717, Page 306

1985 - 1987 Norfolk PHW Realty Trust (Trust established by Phillip H. White); Norfolk Registry of Deeds - Book 6811, Page 740

1939 - 1985 Phillip H. White; Norfolk Registry of Deeds - Book 2258, Page 331

1938 - 1939 George & Eleanor Copp; Norfolk Registry of Deeds - Book 2198, Page 615

1926 - 1938 Doris E. Gebhard; Norfolk Country Registry of Deeds - Book 1706, Page 436

Rockwood Period (1791 - 1926)

1909 - 1926 Harriett Rockwood, Alice J. Grant, Allan B. Rockwood, Elmer E. Rockwood; Norfolk Probate Records - No. 44933

1892 - 1909 Edwin O. Rockwood; son of Elisha Rockwood & Elizabeth Havens; Norfolk Probate Records - No. 28798

1837 - 1892 Elisha Rockwood; son of Benjamin Rockwood & Lucy Ware; Norfolk County Registry of Deeds - Book 177, Page 91

1837 - 1837 Benjamin Rockwood; son of Elisha & Eunice Rockwood

1832 - 1837 Eunice Rockwood (wife of Elisha), Benjamin Rockwood, Peter Rockwood, Eunice Rockwood, Charlotte Rockwood, Jefferson Rockwood, Abigail Rockwood; Norfolk Probate Records - No. 15944

1791 - 1832 Elisha Rockwood; son of Benjamin Rockwood & Ruth Mann; Suffolk Registry of Deeds - Book 173, Page 17

1784 - 1791 Jeremiah Mann & Elisha Rockwood; son of Benjamin Rockwood & Ruth Mann; Suffolk Registry of Deeds - Book 143, Page 29

Harris Period (c.1725 - 1784)

1771 - 1784 Obediah Harris; Suffolk Country Registry of Deeds - Book 121, Page 65

1725 - 1771 Nicholas Harris; Suffolk County Registry of Deeds - Book 39, Page 55

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4. Consider the Years of Many Generations: John Blake of Wrentham, Massachusetts and Some of His Descendants, Kenneth Pond Blake, Jr.
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 - a. 5705 – Probate of Capt. John Blake
19. Suffolk County Registry of Deeds:
 - a. James Blake to Nicholas Harris – 39:55
 - b. Samuel Frost to Obediah Harris – 107:24
 - c. Jeremiah Fisher to Obediah Harris – 108:157
 - d. Nicholas Harris to Obediah Harris – 121:65
 - e. Samuel King to Obediah Harris – 121:79
 - f. James Fisher to Obediah Harris – 121:79
 - g. Obediah Harris to Jeremiah Mann & Elisha Rockwood – 143:29
 - h. Jeremiah Mann to Elisha Rockwood - 173:17
20. Norfolk County Probate Records:
 - a. 15944 – Probate of Elisha Rockwood, 1832
 - b. 28798, Volume 170, Page 19 – Probate of Elisha Rockwood, 1892
 - c. 44933 – Probate of Edwin O. Rockwood, 1909
21. Norfolk County Registry of Deeds:
 - a. Conveyance of property to the Cleaveland Religious Society, 101:222
 - b. Thomas Poppey & Elissa Flynn-Poppey, 15866:39
 - c. Mark and Ann Freeman to Richard Cronin & Julie Collins , 20101:25
 - d. Norfolk PHW Realty Trust to Mark & Ann Freeman, 7717:306
 - e. Philip White to Norfolk PHW Realty Trust; 6811:740
 - f. George & Eleanor Copp to Philip H. White; 2258:331
 - g. Doris E. Gebhard to George & Eleanor Copp; 2198-615
 - h. Rockwood et al. to Doris E. Gebhard; 1076:436
 - i. Elisha Rockwood; son of Benjamin Rockwood & Lucy Ware; 177:91
22. Providence Rhode Island Probate Records

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- a. A517 (pg 184)- (4:184-186) Nicholas Harris - will, 1746.
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43. The Continental Journal Newspaper, 1782-05-02; Iss. CCCXXIII, pg. 4.
44. Boston Evening Post Newspaper, 1767-09-14; Iss. 1668, pg. 3.
45. Boston Evening Post Newspaper, 1767-08-24; Iss. 1666, pg. 3.
46. Boston Post Boy Newspaper, 1767-08-24; Iss. 523, pg.3.
47. The Boston News-Letter and New-England Chronicle, 1767-08-20; Iss. 3333, pg. 3.
48. Mass Gazette, 1787-06-01 Vol. VI, Iss. 335, pg. 2.
49. The Sentinel, Friday Evening, April 13, 1906.
50. The Country Gazette - The Blakes of Stony Brook, November 28, 1984.
51. Poem by James Blake, Jr. - From the Map of the Twenty-Five Divisions, May 8, 1730.
52. Strangers Taken Into Wrentham, p. 199
53. Massachusetts Soldiers in the Colonial Wars.
54. Massachusetts State Archives:
 - a. Maps, Deeds, Probate Records and Muster Rolls.
 - b. Microfilm Card Index of Native Americans, Indian 1690/1691, Vol. 36: page 409.
 - c. Microfilm Card Index of Native Americans, Indian 1690/1691, Vol. 36: page 408.
55. The Massachusetts Tax Valuation List of 1771
56. General Lists of Lands, Lots - Volume No. 8 and Page 688.
57. Some Civil War Soldiers of Wrentham, Compiled by Joseph J. MacDougald - Wrentham Historical Society.
58. Internet Resources
 - a. www.New England Ancestors.org, New England Historic Genealogical Society
 - b. www.familysearch.org, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
 - c. www.rootsweb.com
 - d. www.newenglandancestors.org
 - e. www.freepages.genealogy.com

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

Community Property Address
NORFOLK 76 UNION STREET

Nor. 70

Area(s) Form No.

A	20, 186
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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible Eligible **only** in a historic district
 Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of Significance by Elissa Flynn-Poppey

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

Criteria A

76 Union Street has been associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of our history. This historic property is also significant for local industrial and agricultural enterprises, among them a cooper, box factory, a grain mill, a farm, nursery and a florist business.

In brief, the mill on the site also supported a box factory which was used by local felt mills in their production contributing to the local and national industrial revolution. In addition, this property is believed to be the location of the first coffin factory in the United States.

For these reasons and the more detailed accompanying information contained within the attached survey, this property meets Criteria A.

Criteria B

This home is also associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. The historic property is also significant for its association with the Blake, Harris, and Rockwood families, early settlers of America and of Wrentham/Norfolk.

A patriarch of the Wrentham Rockwood's, Benjamin Rockett (later changed to Rockwood) was a documented participant in King Phillip's War. As the story is described, in 1676 Benjamin Rockett was searching for his stray horse in the woods about three miles northeast of the town center of Norfolk, discovered a band of forty-two Indians late one afternoon in March 1676, during the time of King Phillip's War. Rockett followed the Indians until they camped and then returned to town to secure help from the local men and to guarantee the safety of the women, children, and the old and infirm. With thirteen men under the direction of Captain Ware and led by Rockett they marched toward the Indian

encampment before daylight where a battle ensued. This minor skirmish was brief and resulted in a victory for the pioneers.

76 Union Street was also the home to veterans of the King Philip's War, World War I and II. This home was also the home to Revolutionary War Soldiers, who fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill and who served with General Washington in Boston.

For these reasons and the more detailed accompanying information contained within the attached survey, this property meets Criteria B.

Criteria C

This property is also significant architecturally in Norfolk's history. The barn on the property is particularly noteworthy architecturally and is largely unaltered. The house and the barn have retained integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association with the property and the town of Norfolk. The barn has never been moved from its current location and both the house and barn are uniquely site on the land to take full advantage of its natural resources (running pond, elevated hill, etc.).

It is further our understanding that certain characteristics of the house and the barn located at 76 Union Street embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction. Preservationists have informed the owners that a second floor beehive cooking oven is extremely rare and that many of the features of the house are perfect examples for the period of the home.

For these reasons and the more detailed accompanying information contained within the attached survey, this property meets Criteria C.

In addition, please see Kathy Broomer's statement of significance and the accompanying survey for more detailed information.

NORFOLK #120, 186
76 UNION ST
NOR. 20



Outhouse exterior



Outhouse interior

NORFOLK #20, 186

76 UNION ST

NOR. 20



Barn interior



NOR. 20



Barn Interior



NORFOLK #1 20, 186

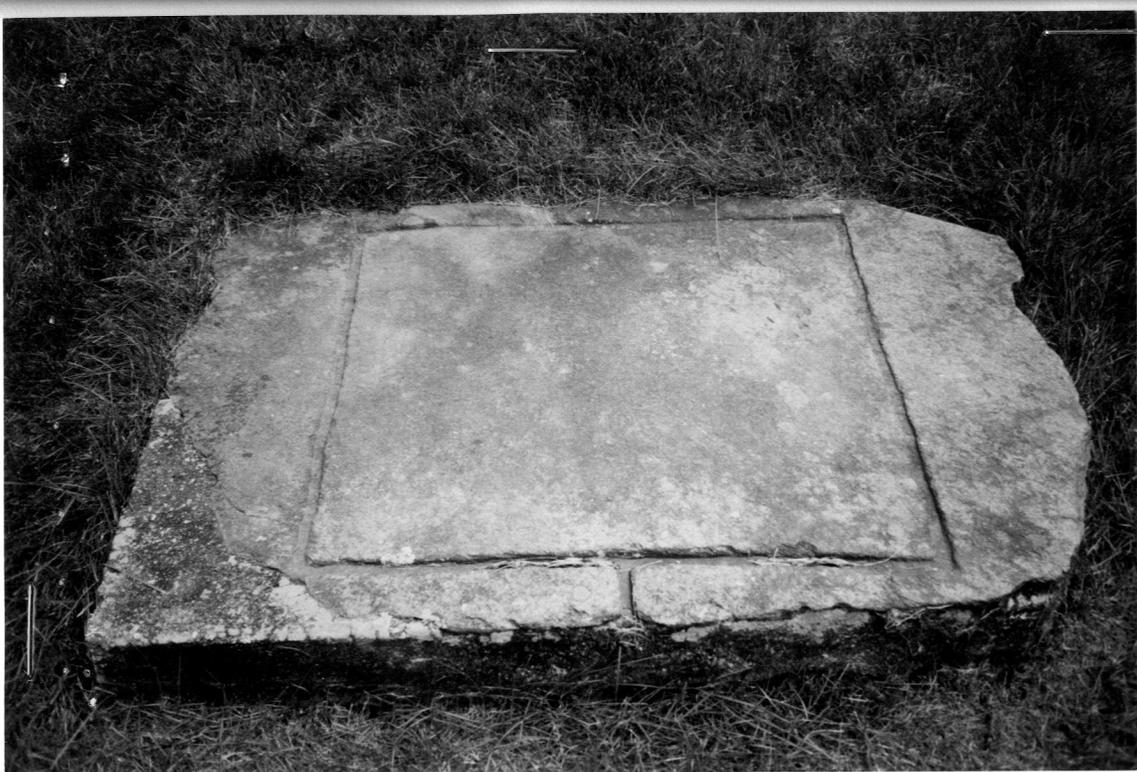
76 UNION ST

NOR. 20



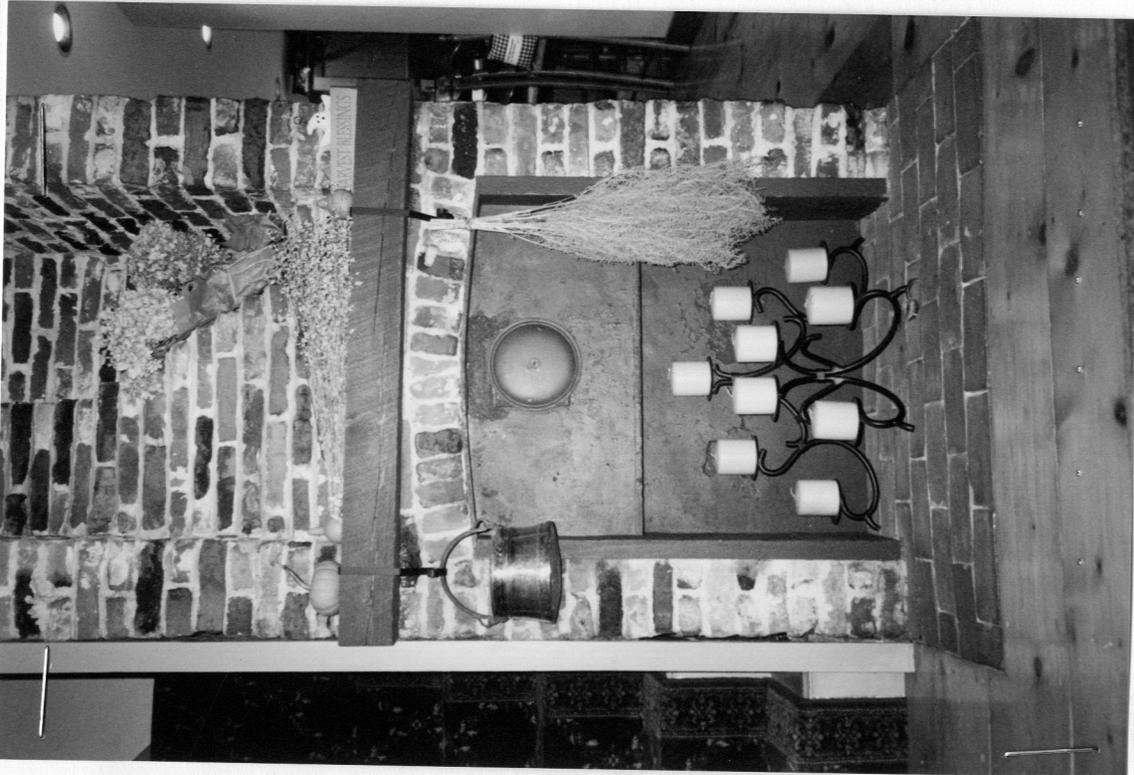
Barn NW elev.

Nor. 20



Possible washing
stone

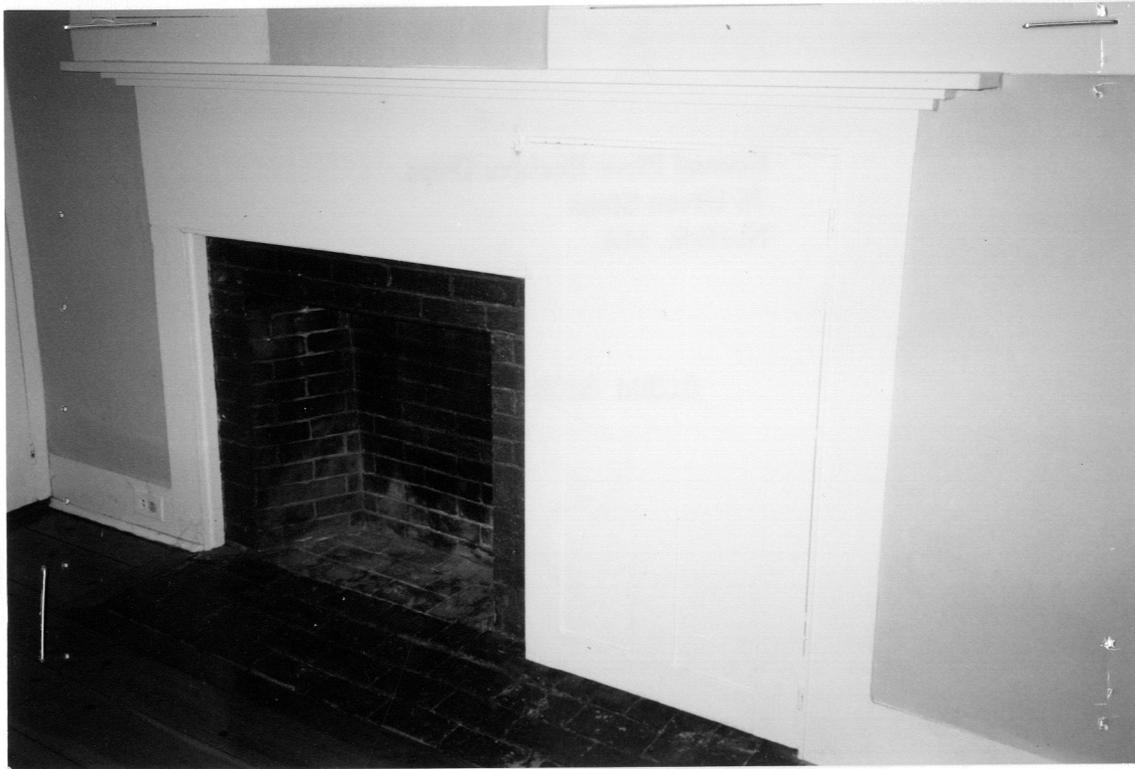
NORFOLK #20, 186
76 UNION ST
NOR 20





NORFOLK # 20, 186
76 UNION ST
NOR. 20





NOR.20

FORM B - BUILDING

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

Assessor's # 13-41-40 USGS Quad Franklin Area(s) A Form # 20, 186

Town Norfolk



(village)

76 Union Street
Elisha Rockwood House
residential
residential, agricultural,
box mill
18th century
Pyne research, style
Federalized colonial

Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



Recorded by Kathleen Kelly Broomer
Organization for Norfolk Historical Commission
Date (month/year) December 2005

Exterior Material:

Foundation stone
Wall/Trim clapboard
Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures **RECEIVED**

barn FEB 24 2006

Major Alterations (with dates) **MASS. HIST. COMM**

rear ell (mid-20th century); see architectural description
for exterior renovations (2002)

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 2.89 acres

Setting wooded residential area on busy north-south route through Norfolk

[A] 20, 86
NOR. 20

BUILDING FORM

76 Union Street, Norfolk

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *See continuation sheet*

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

A well preserved center-chimney Colonial dwelling in Norfolk, 76 Union Street is a 2½-story, side-gabled house with the chimney on the roof ridge. The main block is five bays across with a center entry, and two bays deep. There is a one-story addition (mid-20th century) toward the right rear (northwest) corner of the main block. The entry surround consists of fluted pilasters carrying a plain entablature. Windows contain 12/12 wood sash on the first floor and 8/12 wood sash on the second floor. Inside the house are five fireplaces and two beehive ovens. The original mantle in the dining room was restored in 2004. [Zeigler notes]

The house was renovated on the exterior in 2002. The clapboard was restored and repaired on two elevations, a new reproduction entry door and surround were installed, and new caps with crown molding were added to the window casings. When original side and trim were uncovered, the builder found indications that the original entry door was very plain with a transom above. Original window trim was also very simple with small square-edged wooden window caps. [Zeigler notes] Another exterior renovation that occurred after 1976, when the property was first inventoried, but before the 2002 project, involved replacement of a standard-width window on the second floor of the south (Grove Street side) elevation with the present wide window. The oriel window below is show on the 1976 inventory photograph.

The gable-front barn (MHC #186), situated northeast of the house and oriented south, is one of the most intact historic barns remaining in Norfolk. The barn is built into the grade and includes a raised basement on the east (Union Street) elevation. The two-bay by two-bay building is clad with wood shingles and has an asphalt shingle roof. The foundation is not visible from the street. There is a shed-roofed extension on the west (left) side of the barn, incorporating another bay. Windows contain wood sash. In addition to the square cupola at the roof ridge, the barn features overhanging eaves and thin cornerboards. The barn is "remarkably unaltered" and retains all loft levels as well as a wooden cistern in the cupola. [Zeigler notes]

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ✓ *See continuation sheet*

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.

Sections of the following narrative are based on a draft updated inventory form prepared in November 2003 by Betsy Pyne of the Norfolk Historical Commission. (Form not submitted to MHC.)

A legend that is repeated in many local histories recounts the story of an Indian raid that happened in 1676 at the beginning of King Philip's War. Benjamin Rockett [*sic*], along with Captain John Ware and thirteen men, attacked a band of forty-two natives at dawn, killing twenty of them. This took place at what is now called "Indian Rock" in present-day Franklin. At this time, Benjamin was living in Medfield, and settled in Wrentham before 17 March 1680/1. The first Rocket (Rockwood) homestead was in present-day Franklin. Benjamin and his brother, Nathaniel Rocket, were among the first settlers to return to the village at Wrentham to rebuild their homes after the war. Benjamin was one of ten men who organized the first Congregational Church in Wrentham center. [Pyne]

The early history of the dwelling at 76 Union Street is unclear. *Early Norfolk Revisited* (1970) notes that the present house was built in the 1720s or 1730s, probably by Benjamin Rocket's son. [p. 35] Elisha Rockwood, Nathaniel Rocket's grandson, acquired buildings and one hundred acres in the area around this house in 1784, from Obidiah Harris. Whether the present house existed on the property at that time has yet to be confirmed. Elisha Rockwood married Eunice Clark in 1780, and their descendants owned the property until 1926. Rockwood Road in Norfolk center is named for the family, and there are many Rockwood graves at the Norfolk Cemetery, Main and Seekonk Streets (see form). [Pyne; *Early Norfolk Revisited*]

NOR. 20

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town	Property Address
Norfolk	76 Union Street
Area	Form Number
A	20, 186

Elisha Rockwood and his son, Benjamin, operated a box mill on this site before 1850. They dammed the stream that runs behind the house to power the mill. The factory, on the north side of the resulting pond, was quite large in historic photographs, one of which appears in *Early Norfolk Revisited* [p. 35]. Some remnants of the operation are still evident in the barn. It is said that the factory, which operated into the early 20th century, made wooden shoe boxes, the first ready-made coffins, and carriages. Given its close proximity to the mills in the Stony Brook and City Mills sections of Norfolk, respectively, it is possible that the factory made boxes for those mills as well. [Pyne; NHC web site]

The gravestone of Elisha Rockwood's grandson, also Elisha, at Norfolk Cemetery reads: *Elisha Rockwood 1814-1892 six generations to Richard Rockwood from England 1666*. Edwin O. Rockwood operated a successful nursery and florist operation on the property in 1890 and into the early 20th century, to at least 1909, according to Norfolk directories. Albert H. Chase was employed by Rockwood and lived on the property, according to the town's 1902 directory. [Pyne; directories]

Dr. Phillip White and his family lived here from 1939 until his death in 1987. He was the Norfolk Town Historian and one of the first members of the Norfolk Historical Commission, founded in 1970. Dr. White was the person largely responsible for writing *Early Norfolk Revisited* (see above), to commemorate Norfolk's centennial.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ___ *See continuation sheet*

Norfolk maps and atlases: 1858 (North Wrentham), 1876, 1888.

Norfolk directories: 1890, 1902, 1909, 1913.

Fales, Bertha. "A History of Norfolk." 1934.

Early Norfolk Revisited. 1970.

Zeigler, Samuel C. Project descriptions of work on historic houses in Norfolk, 1978 to present [including 76 Union Street] SZ Restoration Carpentry. 22 October 2004.

Other sources consulted by Betsy Pyne, Norfolk Historical Commission:

Rockwood, Vivian VaLera, compiler. *Four Centuries of American Descendants of Richard Rockwood of Dorchester 1633, Braintree 1636. A Family Genealogy*. Vol. I.

Fiore, Jordan D. *Wrentham. A History*. Town of Wrentham, 1973.

Blake, Mortimer. *A History of the Town of Franklin*. 1878.

✓ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

NOR. 20

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town

Norfolk

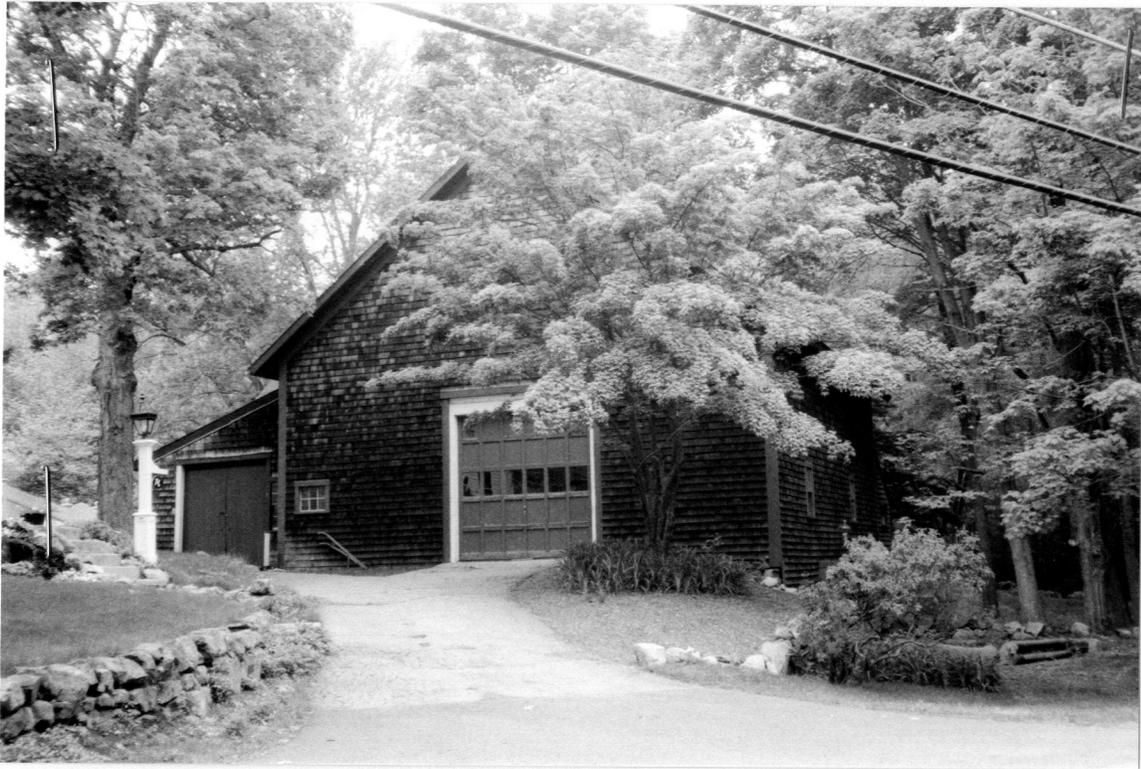
Area
A

Property Address

76 Union Street

Form Number

20, 186



NOR. 20

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town **Property Address**

Norfolk 76 Union Street

Area **Form Number**

A

20, 186



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

Town Norfolk
Property Address 63, 68, and 76 Union Street
Area A
Form No. see below 20, 186

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible
- Contributing to a potential historic district
- Eligible only in a historic district
- Potential historic district

Criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of Significance by Kathleen Kelly Broomer

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The historic properties at 63 Union Street (MHC #183), 68 Union Street (MHC #184, 185), and 76 Union Street (MHC #20, 186) are significant for their associations with the Rockwood family, descendants of early settlers of Norfolk, as well as local industrial and agricultural enterprises, among them a box mill in the mid-19th century, a grain mill in the late 19th century, poultry farming, and a nursery and florist business. For these reasons, the three properties as a group meet Criterion A. In addition, the three properties are significant architecturally in Norfolk's history, and illustrate more than a century of residential development. The barn at 76 Union Street is particularly noteworthy architecturally and considered remarkably unaltered. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, the three Union Street properties, as a potential historic district, meet the National Register criteria at the local level.

P1-NOR
USGS-WREN

NOB. 20



In Area no. <u>(A)</u>	Form no. <u>5420</u>
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City Norfolk, Mass
 Address Union St.
 Use Residence
 Present owner Mr. & Mrs. White.
 Description: Mid 1700s. Est.

Source _____

Style Colonial Center Chimney

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) Barn.

Other features Well

Altered Slightly Date _____
 Moved partitions removed in Living room Date _____

5. Lot size:
 One acre or less _____ Over one acre 54

Approximate frontage 300 ft.

Approximate distance of building from street
30 ft.

6. Recorded by Betsy Pyne
 Organization Historical Comm.
 Date 2/12/76

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

Wrentham.

King St.

Diamond St.

Union St.

Grove St.

North.

Norfolk.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

JUL 14 1976

MASS. HIST. COMM.

7. Original owner (if known) Rocket Family.

Original use Farm "Dairy"

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Pond and saw mill operation.

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| Aboriginal | _____ | Conservation | _____ | Recreation | _____ |
| Agricultural | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Education | _____ | Religion | _____ |
| Architectural | _____ | Exploration/
settlement | _____ | Science/
invention | _____ |
| The Arts | _____ | Industry | _____ | Social/
humanitarian | _____ |
| Commerce | _____ | Military | _____ | Transportation | _____ |
| Communication | _____ | Political | _____ | | |
| Community development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | | |

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

A box factory made wooden boxes and various wooden articles. The original owners were descended from Benjamin Rocket who was one of the first settlers in the Norfolk Area.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Early Norfolk Revisited published by the Town of Norfolk in 1970