

Brookline Preservation Commission

Demolition Application Report

Address: 21 Sears Road

Petitioner: English Rose Nominee Realty Trust, Mildred Anderson, Trustee

Building type: single family house



Historical/Architectural Significance:

The house was c. 1835, probably by Benjamin Bradley as carpenter. Bradley sold the lot of less than an acre to Joseph Frazer of Brookline in September 1835. The deed mentions a wall, but not a dwelling house. However, by April 1836, Frazer sells the land and a dwelling house to Clarissa Gould, a widow from Boston. She, in turn, sold it to Ebenezer Smith on August 1841. Dr. George Hayward buys it in July 1844. Ten years later it became part of the larger John Eliot Thayer Estate. Thayer hired Richard Upjohn in 1847 to design a large stone summer house on his estate- it was off Dudley Road and 21 Sears was used to house the employees. Besides 21 Sears, the only remnants of the estate are the sandstone gateposts at the corner of Dudley and Sears Road and the house at 248 Dudley- c. 1847 by Upjohn built as the gate lodge. (It was moved in 1925 as well). After Thayer's death, it was owned by Robert C. Winthrop. In 1871, the map has Rollins listed; George Rollins was a butler for Robert Winthrop. John Eliot Thayer was a Boston banker, founder of the brokerage house Kidder & Peabody. His widow, Adele, married John C. Winthrop and the couple made their home at this estate for many years. Winthrop's father had been Lt. Governor of Massachusetts. Robert C. studied law with Daniel Webster and was appointed U. S. Senate in Webster's place. The house was later owned by the Winthrop daughter, then Moses Williams. The estate was subdivided after his death.

Sears Road was constructed in the year 1925. That same year, Quincy Adams Shaw buys the property and hired Richardson, Barrott & Richardson to "move the house to a new location removing all connecting sheds and outhouses, repairing remainder of house and minor interior changes. In 1930, an additional room and bathroom were added.

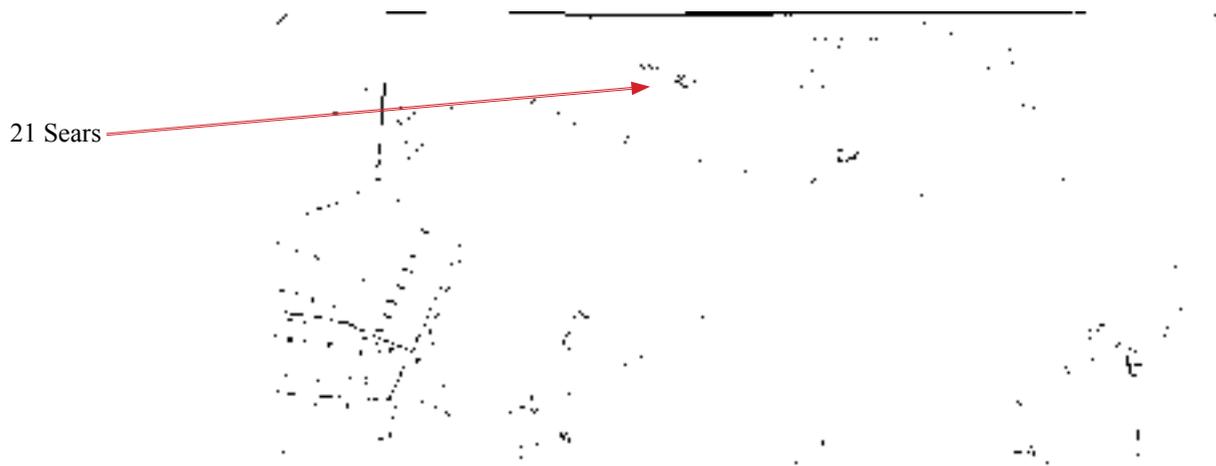
The house at 21 Sears meets the following criteria for an initial determination of significance:

- c. The building is associated with one or more significant historic persons or events, or with the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic, or social history of the Town or Commonwealth; and
- d. The building is historically or architecturally significant in terms of its period, style, method of construction, or its association with a significant architect or builder, either by itself or as part of a group of buildings.

The house is significant as a remarkable survivor in this location of Brookline. Constructed in a remote location, access was over a path from Clyde Street. The house is a very traditional late-Federal style design, characteristic of a farmhouse in this isolated location. (Brookline was also very conservative in architectural design in the early 19th century.) Although the clapboards have been replaced, much of the Federal style trim and period sash survive.



21 Sears Road
Demolition December 2015



1874 Atlas- Thayer-Winthrop property



1929 Atlas- Quincy Shaw