Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	EDG.46
Historic Name:	Kelley House and Tavern
Common Name:	Marcy House - Seaview House - Great Harbor Inn
Address:	24 Kelley St
City/Town:	Edgartown
Village/Neighborhood:	Edgartown Village
Local No:	20D/301
Year Constructed:	c 1746
Architect(s):	Milton and Sweet
Architectural Style(s):	No style
Use(s):	Hotel or Inn; Restaurant; Single Family Dwelling House; Tavern
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce; Maritime History
Area(s):	EDG.A: Edgartown Village Historic District EDG.B: Edgartown Local Historic District
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (12/09/1983); Local Historic District (04/14/1987)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Vinyl Siding; Wood; Wood Shingle Foundation: Brick; Stone, Cut

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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: Monday, December 6, 2021 at 8:46: PM

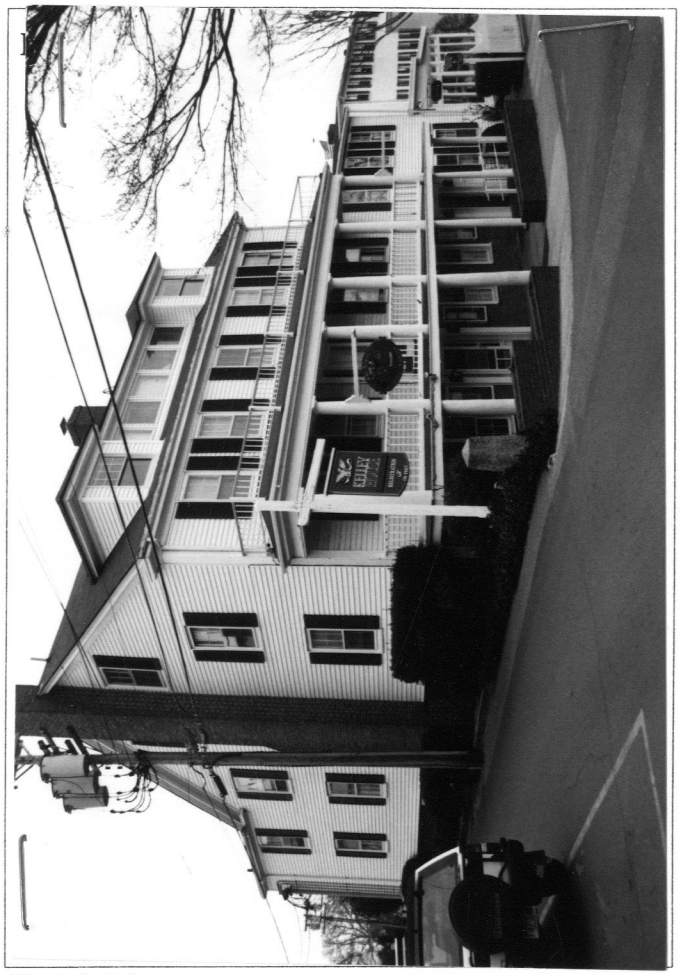
EDG.46

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
20D/301	Edgartown	A, B	EDG.46

District Status: NRDIS 1983 LHD 1987

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Facility
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125



Sketch Map

see attached map

RECEIVED
AUG 22 2000
MASS. HIST. COMM

Town Edgartown

Place *(neighborhood or village)*

Address 24 Kelley Street

Historic Name Kelley House

Uses: Present commercial

Original commercial

Date of Construction ca 1746

Source Dukes County Historical Society Archives; Banks

Style/Form Colonial

Architect/Builder Milton & Sweet

Exterior Material:

Foundation brick

Wall/Trim vinyl siding

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures
see architectural description

Major Alterations *(with dates)*
see architectural description

Condition

Moved X **no** ____ **yes** **Date**

Acreage more than one acre

Setting porch built out to sidewalk, buildings set back 5 feet from Kelley St.; small shrubs in front of additions; set back approximately three feet along North Water St., with shrubs along foundation

Recorded by Mary Kate Harrington, Jeffrey D. Emidy

Organization PAL

Date *(month/day/year)* June 2000

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual for instructions for completing this form.

EDG.46

BUILDING FORM

Community: Edgartown
Address: 24 Kelley Street

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Kelley House at 24 Kelley Street is a 2½-story, side-gable, Colonial-style building currently used as an inn. The original building has been significantly altered and added to since its construction. Oriented to face west, onto Kelley Street, the building is set into the side of a slope and has an exposed basement level on the west elevation. The main block of the building is five bays wide and two bays deep, is sheathed in vinyl siding, and sits atop a brick foundation. A 2-story, hip-roof porch with wood columns and a simple rail extends along the west elevation of the building. The building's primary entrance is located at the basement level on the facade (west elevation) and is flanked by three sidelights. A large dormer, comprised of two hip-roof dormers connected by a shed-roof dormer, is located on the west roof slope. According to the 1973 MHC form for the building, only the southern hip-roof dormer existed at that time. As evidenced by the photograph on the 1973 form, the shed-roof dormer and northern hip-roof dormers were added in the last 25 years. An interior, brick chimney projects from the roof ridge and an exterior, brick chimney is located at the north end of the building. Fenestration of the primary block includes 6/6 double-hung sash windows flanked by shutters on the first and second stories. An exterior, brick chimney is located at the north end of the building.

A 2-story, gable-roof ell projects from the rear (east) elevation of the main block. This ell is one bay wide and two bays deep and sits atop a brick foundation. A large, 2-story, gable-roof ell projects from the south elevation of the main block. It features a continuation of the front porch on its first story. A secondary entrance is located within this porch, at the north bay of the ell. A 1-story, shed-roof ell is attached to the south elevation of the 2-story addition. This ell is features a centrally-located entrance on its west side, flanked by rows of tall, single-light, fixed windows set below multi-light transoms. The south elevation of this ell is four bays deep, with paired, single-pane casement windows in each. These pairs of windows are each flanked with decorative shutters.

The porch of the main block is built out to the edge of the sidewalk, while the additions along Kelley Street are set back approximately five feet. Small shrubs are planted in front of the additions. Along the north side, the building is set back approximately three feet from the sidewalk, and shrubs are planted along the foundation.

The building has one associated outbuilding: a large, 3-story, rectangular building that is 15 bays wide and 4 bays deep. It has a three-bay, 2-story entrance portico with a flat roof and center entrance. The vinyl-clad building has a flat roof.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Edgartown was first settled by English colonists in 1641 when Thomas Mayhew, a missionary, established a settlement with several other families on the site of the present village (Fitch 1983). Prior to the arrival of Mayhew and the other settlers, the island was inhabited by Native Americans, most notably the Algonquin sachem Nunnepog. In July of 1671 Edgartown was incorporated by the state of New York, but in 1682, by the charter of William and Mary, Martha's Vineyard was consolidated with the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries Edgartown, along with several other settlements that were established on the island, developed as an important center for maritime activities such as whaling, fishing, and salt production. By the early nineteenth century Edgartown's development as a whaling and fishing port had reach its height, and consequently the town began to reflect the great wealth produced by those involved with the whaling business. However, the whaling business collapsed as quickly as it had grown, and by the 1860s Edgartown's whaling fleet was dramatically smaller. The economic hardship brought on the town by the collapse of the whaling industry was heightened by the outbreak of civil war which further disrupted trade and commerce (Fitch 1983).

___Recommended for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. ***If checked, you must complete a National Register Criteria Statement.***
A * indicates that additional information may be found in MHC survey documentation for this referenced property.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community: Edgartown

Property Address: 24 Kelley Street

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Facility
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s) A, B

Form No. EDG.46

Soon after the end of the Civil War, and the collapse of the whaling industry, Martha's Vineyard's popularity as a summer resort destination began to increase. The tourist industry did not significantly affect Edgartown until the late nineteenth century, but at that time it seemed to provide a viable option for economic recovery. Once started, Edgartown's growth as a resort community was swift and constant and by the early nineteenth century the town was well established as one of the country's most popular tourist destinations (Fitch 1983).

The Kelley House at 24 Kelley Street was constructed ca 1746 by Milton and Sweet. It served as an inn and a tavern for sailors coming in from the docks of Edgartown. During its early days, the hotel was popularly known as the Tavern at Kelley House. The building's location is ideal for its use as an inn. Kelley Street leads directly from the wharves of Edgartown Harbor to the main east-west thoroughfare, Water Street. Foot and carriage traffic from the steamboat wharf could proceed directly up Kelley Street to get to Water Street, and would likely stop at the intersection, directly in front of the inn.

The land upon which the Kelley House is built is the northerly half of the original Bayes home lot, which was passed by descendants to the Newcomb family and purchased in 1743 by John Harper. Harper began keeping a tavern at the location in 1748. He was succeeded by his son-in-law, Lemuel Kelley, in 1772. In 1798, after Lemuel Kelley's death, his wife, Bathsheba, took over operation of the inn. Lemuel and Bathsheba's son, William, took control three years later. By 1850, the building was operating as the Marcy House (Banks 1911:vol. 2, 180; Vineyard Gazette, December 1, 1989). The Marcy House was named by its owner, L. Marcy. At that time, the building consisted only of the main block and one 2-story ell built along North Water Street. In 1867, William H. Milton and Joseph W. Kelley purchased the inn, raised it, and renovated it . Joseph Kelley ran the inn until 1878, when it was closed to guests. For 13 years the house was closed, but in 1891 it was purchased by Elizabeth and William Kelley, who reopened it as the Seaview House. William Kelley was a descendant of the first family of Kelleys from which the inn attained its name. After William Kelley's death in 1907, Mrs. Kelley continued to operate the inn until her death in 1935, during which time the name was changed to the Kelley House. At the death of Mrs. Kelley, Richard L. Colter took over and changed the name to the Great Harbor Inn, after Edgartown's original name (Banks 1911:vol. 2, 180; Vineyard Gazette, December 1, 1989). In 1940, the building continued in use as an inn, though its name had been changed to the Kelley House. The front porch had been added along Kelley Street by this time, as had the two additions to the south side of the main block (Sanborn 1923).

In 1988, the Kelley House was involved in a bankruptcy case, and in the following year, the building was taken over by the Harbor View Hotel. The Harbor View retained ownership of the building until 1994, when Winthrop Hotels and Resorts purchased the hotel and turned management responsibilities over to Interstate Hotels Corporation. The Kelley House building currently remains in use as a part of the hotel, with a restaurant and pub in the basement level.

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Dukes County Historical Society Archives.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community: Edgartown

Property Address: 24 Kelley Street

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Facility
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s) A, B

Form No. EDG.46

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EDG.46

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community: Edgartown

Property Address: 24 Kelley Street

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Facility
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s) A, B

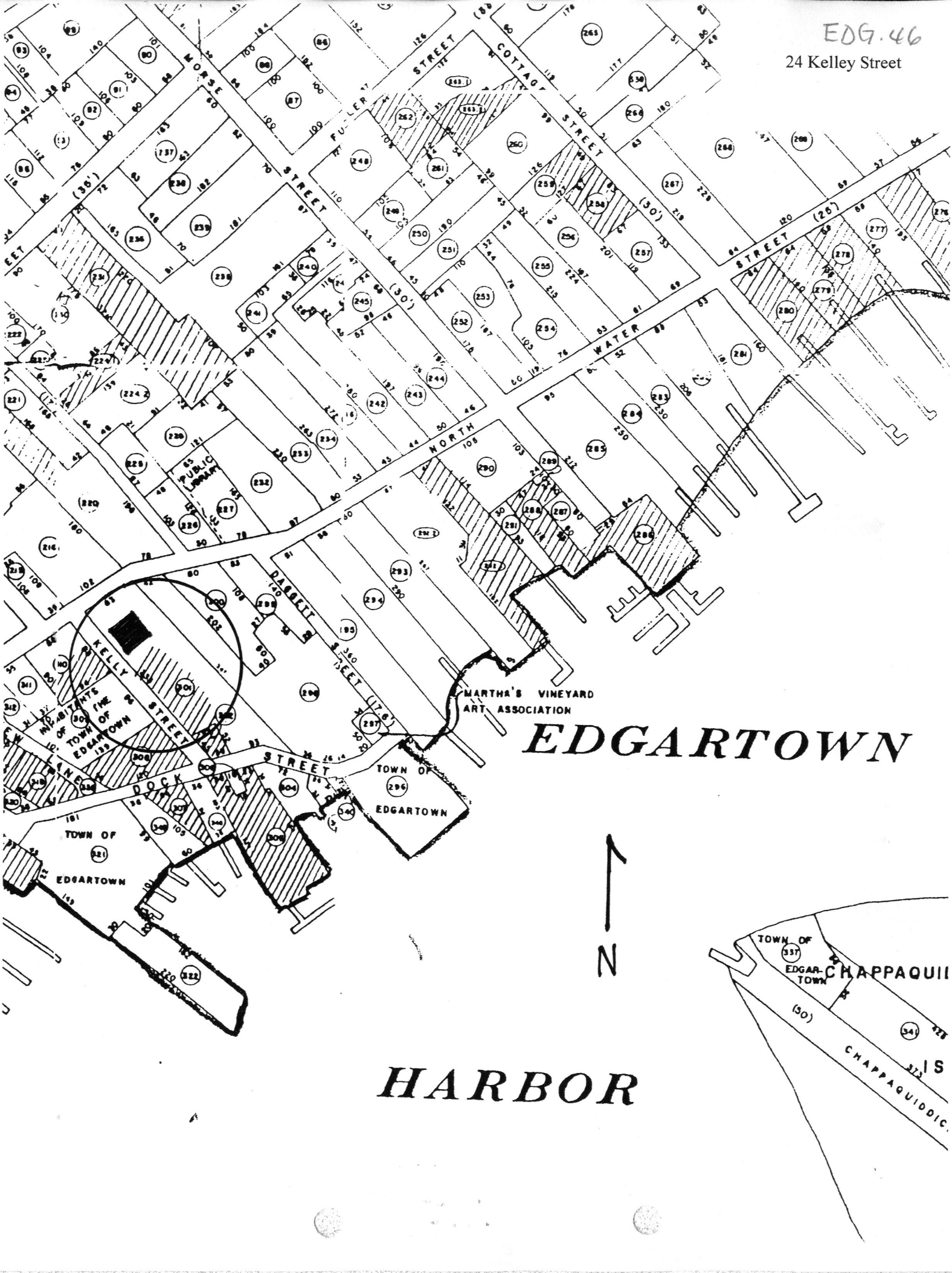
Form No. EDG.46

PHOTOGRAPHS

24 Kelley Street (view from North Water Street)

EDG.46

24 Kelley Street

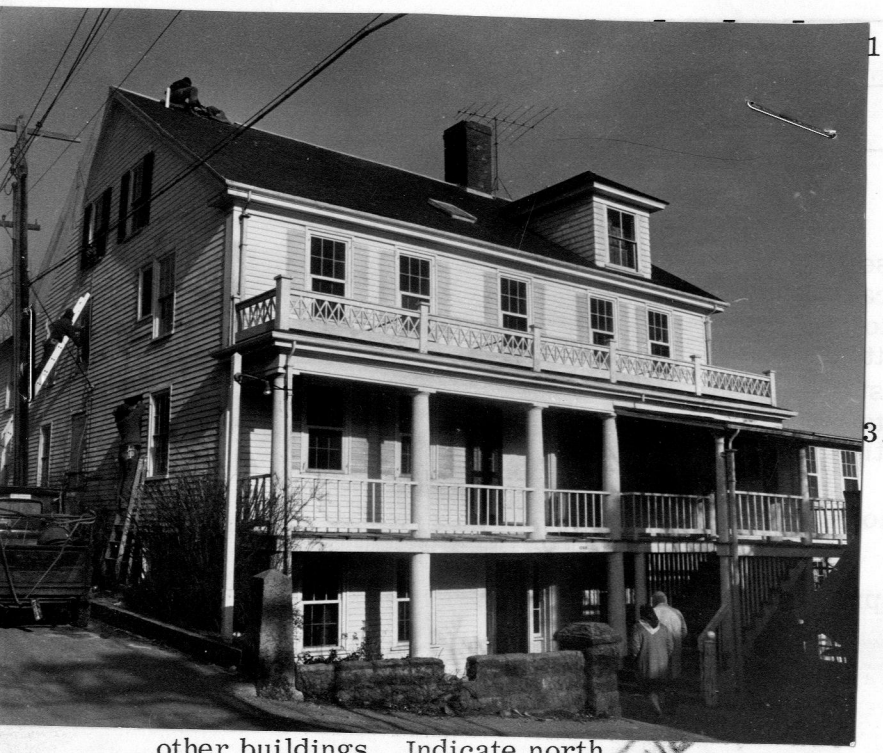


LHD - 4/14/87
NRDIS - 12/9/83
EDG.46

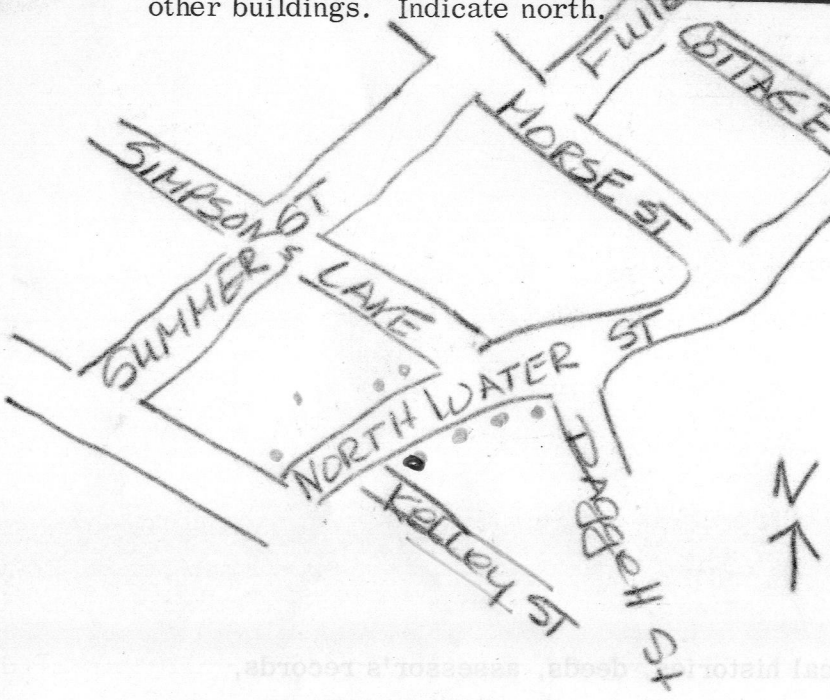
FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
A, B	46



other buildings. Indicate north.



1. Town Edgartown
   Address ~~North Water Street~~ 23 Kelley St
   Name Kelley House
   Present use Inn

   Present owner Robert J. Carroll

3. Description:
   Date 1742
   Source date over door
   Style Colonial
   Architect porch G.R.?
   Exterior wall fabric Vinyl clapboard
   Outbuildings (describe) House huge motel
   Other features This has front columns which are not columns but tree trunks. There was once a bee hive oven
   Altered X Date 1973
   Moved ____ Date ____

5. Lot size:
   One acre or less ____ Over one acre X
   Approximate frontage 400 yards
   Approximate distance of building from street On street

6. Recorded by Edith Blake
   Organization Mass. Hist. Comm.
   Date Feb. 8, 1973

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant ____
MHC Photo no. ____

(over)

JUN 27 1973

20M-5-73-075074

EDG.46

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

Architectual development of an American Whaling town

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

Called the Marey House on the 1858 map.