## WITTEMORE'S TAVERN BOURNE HOUSE

473 AUBURN STREET NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02166

NEWTON LOCAL LANDMARKS NOMINATION REPORT
PREPARED BY ELIZABETH GUCKENBERGER
BOSTON UNIVERSITY PRESERVATION PROGRAM
FOR
CITY OF NEWTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MAY 5, 1997

## NEWTON LOCAL LANDMARKS PROGRAM

## **473 AUBURN STREET**

The Newton Historical Commission, with the assistance of Boston University Preservation Planning student, Elizabeth Guckenberger, prepared this landmark report, completed in June 1997.

The Newton Landmarks Program has been financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, through the Massachusetts Historical Commission, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior, or the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

This program receives Federal funds from the National Park Service. The U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender or handicap in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office for Equal Opportunity, U.S Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Room 1324, Washington, DC 20240.

## WITTEMORE'S TAVERN BOURNE HOUSE

473 AUBURN STREET NEWTON, MASSACHUSTTS 02116

#### ASSESSOR'S S/B/L # 41-12-12

#### **CLASSIFICATION:**

OWNERSHIP= PRIVATE
TYPE OF PROPERTY= BUILDING
NATIONAL REGISTER STATUS= INDIVIDUAL LISTING
AS PART OF MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA NOMINATION
DATED SEPTEMBER 4, 1986

#### CONTENTS

I. NAME OF PROPERTY	
II. LOCATION OF PROPERTY	PAGE 2
III. CLASSIFICATION	PAGE 2
IV. FUNCTION OR USE OF PROPERTY PA	GE 3
A. HISTORIC FUNCTION	
B. CURRENT FUNCTION	
V. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY	PAGE 4
A. NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION	
1. HISTORICAL CONTEXT	
2. CURRENT CONTEXT	
B. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION	
1. HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION	
2. CURRENT APPEARANCE	
VI. HISTORY OF PROPERTY	PAGE 8
A. DEED HISTORY	
B. DEVELOPMENT HISTORY	
C. HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS	
VII. SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPERTY	PAGE 9
A. PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	
B. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE	
C. ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE	
D. LANDMARK DESIGNATION SIGNIFICANCE	
VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS	PAGE 11
A. PRESERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS	
B. IMPORTANT FEATURES	
C. FURTHER RESEARCH	
IX. STANDARDS FOR DESIGN REVIEW	PAGE 12
A. GENERAL STANDARDS	
R SPECIFIC STANDARDS	

#### **B. CURRENT FUNCTION**

The property is a two-family house that is privately owned and rented. Building permits indicate that the house was converted into a two family residence as early as 1946 or 1948. The floor plan reveals two nearly identical room layouts. The property is zoned two family. (See Appendix C for the Newton Planning Department Assessor's Base Maps.) The house is presently used as a double family residence and is not open to the public.

# A. NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION 1. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

In the late 1600s and early 1700s the land of Auburn Dale was open, unfarmed terrain. The land within the boundaries now known as Auburndale was originally settled by William Robinson (the original ancestral link to the property where 473 Auburn Street would be built.) As previously indicated, Robinson passed his property in 1742 to his three sons who purchased more property in the area and tilled the land as farmland. A brook led into a small pond north of the house. The terrain was open and hilly with occasional wooded areas. (See Appendix D for historic atlases of the property and the surrounding land. Note the open terrain and few roads in the vicinity of the Wittemore Tavern/ Bourne house as late as 1831.)

The Wittemore Tavern/ Bourne house was located on a prominent route used by people traveling by stage coach in the mid to late 1700s and into the early 1800s. (See Appendix D-1. Note the bridge over the Charles leading to Weston.) The house was used by travelers headed to Natick by way of the Weston Bridge as a tavern in the mid to late 1700s.

In 1843 William P. Bourne purchased the tavern, and by 1886 the property had passed to his heirs. (See Appendix D-3. Historic atlases of the property in 1874 indicate the Bourne family's ownership of the land.) Between 1885 and 1895 the property surrounding the Bourne Homestead began to be partitioned and divided among further descendants and sold off for development. (See Appendix D-4. A historic atlas dated 1886 indicates the division of the Bourne land among other Bourne family members.)

Between 1895 and 1907, the property was significantly subdivided. (See Appendix D-5 and D-6 for the development from 1895 to 1907.) By 1907 Rockwood Terrace and Woodbine Terrace were laid out and divided into lots, and the majority of the houses that stand today were complete.

Today the neighborhood is predominantly residential. Most houses are single and double occupancy. A few apartment buildings exist on the outskirts of the area once owned by the Bourne's.

The houses located on Rockwood Terrace directly adjacent to the Bourne House property are small bungalows sheathed with wood shingles or clapboards. The larger structures are Victorian Queen Anne in style while the smaller houses are more modest, with very little detail or trim.

The houses on Auburn, Bourne, and Woodbine Streets are more elaborate and rise three to three and one half stories tall. All of the houses on these streets are covered with wood clapboards or shingles, and many combine the two materials. The styles range from Victorian Queen Anne to Colonial Revival. Each is situated on a relatively small lot, and many have garages or smaller shed-like buildings at the rear of the lot.

The Bourne House faces south on Auburn Street, a heavily traveled road. The Massachusetts turnpike is 200 yards from the front door of the house, and can be seen and heard through the trees and fence that separate Auburn Street from the highway. Woodland Road crosses the highway and enters Auburn Street directly across from the house. (See Appendix A-9 and A-10 for current photographs of the site.)

From the road the house is obscured by a six foot solid wooden fence that stands on a four foot stone wall. Only the second floor windows, two chimneys, and roof are visible from the street. By entering the house via the driveway to the east, the entire building can be seen, however. (See Appendix A-2, A-3, and A-4 for current photographs of the view of the house from the street.)

#### B. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The central block of the house rises two and one half stories from a stone foundation and has a pitched side-gabled roof. Two parallel cross-gabled wings emerge from the back, northern side of the house. Two brick chimneys are located on the rear slope of the roof, one in each of the cross-gabled wings. An asphalt-shingled roof joins the main walls of the house with a slight eve overhang and band of wooden trim below. The house is covered with brown-painted clapboards and has a simple yellow painted wooden trim. (See Appendix A1-A10 for current photographs of the house.)

The house spans four bays wide and is four bays in depth. It is symmetrical except for a one story enclosed porch with a half hipped roof on the western side of the building. The windows on the central block of the house are six over six sash without exterior shutters. Each window is framed by a narrow architrave wooden trim and has no sill.

A brick pathway leads to a single stone step at the base of the front door which is six-paneled and made of wood with the top two panels replaced by glass. Framing the door are two wooden pilasters and a simple hood roof.

There are two other entrances to the house. The enclosed porch to the west of the front door has a fifteen-glass-paneled door framed by wood trim. Another entrance is located at the rear of the house where two parallel single story wings emerge from the double story wings of the house. Both of the single story wings have front-gabled roofs and windows with six over one sashes. The east single story wing has a fifteen-glass-paneled door framed by wood trim.

The house is surrounded by a six foot wooden fence which reaches nearly ten feet tall in front where it sits on a four foot stone wall on Auburn Street. Most of the house is obscured by the fence except for the second story windows, roof line, and two chimneys. Only when viewed from the entrance of the driveway is the entire structure visible from the street.

The vegetation surrounding the property is varied. The side and back yards have grass and bushes as well as a few plantings. The back yard has a brick terrace directly behind the house. The front yard has flower beds boxed in by wooden boundaries, as well as a very large pine tree directly outside the fence and to the west of the front door.

#### 1. HISTORICAL APPEARANCE

Historical maps indicate that the two second story wings were added in the year 1874. They are not visible in one of the maps dated for that year, or any previous years, but do appear on another map dated 1874. (See Appendix D-3.) This suggests that they were added in this year. Many historic atlases have poor attention to detail, however. So, although the wings first appear on the maps in 1874, they may have existed earlier.

The east addition of the enclosed porch and side entrance to the house first appear on a map dated 1907. (See Appendix D-6.) Other historic maps available after 1895, and prior to 1907 do not show this addition, so it was most likely constructed between 1895 and 1907.

Historic maps indicate that an outbuilding existed on the property starting in 1886, and photographs from the early to mid 1900s verify its existence at the rear eastern portion of the lot up until 1907. (See Appendix D-5 and D-6.) Historic photographs indicate the two story

wooden structure existed behind the eastern portion of the house. The two story structure is visible in photographs dated as early as 1880 and as late as 1908 when it was probably destroyed to make room for the house that now stands directly behind 473 Auburn Street. (See Appendix B-2 and B-3 for photographs of the outbuilding. See Appendix D-6 and D-7 for the development of Rockwood Terrace behind the property.)

The Wittemore Tavern/ Bourne House was designed as a farm house, and later used as a tavern and most recently used as a two family residence. It is utilitarian in design with very little architectural detail,. It was additionally historically used for strictly utilitarian purposes. The house has never boasted elaborate detail or ornament, and therefor its integrity of design is in tact and preserved. Historic photographs of the house taken prior to 1917 and as late as 1962 indicate that the house once had basic wooden slatted shutters. This minimal, and utilitarian detail is the only evidence of even remote complexity of design. (See Appendix B-1 and B-8.)

The house remains close to the road which was laid out in 1729. The house has always remained in the same location. Although the road was smaller and less traveled during the early 1700s when the house was built, the house's location was intentional and later helped lend easy access to tired travelers during its role as a tavern. The integrity of the houses' location is therefor in tact, as proximity to avenues of public transportation played a major role in its historical function.

It is additionally arguable that the proximity of the Massachusetts turnpike does not destroy the integrity of this houses' feeling and association since the structure was historically utilized as a tavern and served the public place to rest and stay the night when weary from the distance of travel. Although the proximity of the highway is not consistent with the historical rural farmland setting, the sound and speed of cars and other automobiles is not altogether disassociated from the historical function and use of the structure as a tavern.

#### 2. CURRENT APPEARANCE

Today the house is in good shape. Many of the clapboards were probably replaced when the house was renovated in 1986. Building permits indicate that the house was significantly "restored" in 1986 when plaster was removed, the frame was repaired, windows and doors were restored or replaced, and the kitchens and bathrooms were re-done.

Presently, the windows are encased by removable storm windows. The plantings are in poor and neglected shape, and recently part of the fence which surrounds the property was destroyed in a car accident, and the

house is thus more easily viewed from the street. This, however is a temporary vantage point, and once repaired, the fence will again obscure most of the view of the house from the street. (See Appendix A-4 for fence damage.)

VI. HISTORY OF PROPERTY A. CHAIN OF TITLE

Atlas, city directory, and other research reveals the following chain of title:

1874: William and Benjamin Bourne

1886: William Potter heirs and Benjamin Bourne heirs

1895: Potter and Bourne

1907: Heirs of Potter and Bourne

1917: Heirs and B. Potter et als

1929: R.E. and N.L. Perkins

#### **B. DEVELOPMENT HISTORY**

Historic atlases indicate intense late 19th and early 20th century development to the property surrounding the Bourne House. William and Benjamin Bourne and their heirs laid out the following streets adjacent to the property: Rockwood Terrace, Woodbine Terrace, Woodbine Street, and Bourne Street. They divided much of the property among their heirs, and sold off the remaining lots to individuals interested in building houses on suburban sized lots. (See Appendix D-3 for indication of street location. See Appendix D-4, D-5, D-6, and D-7 to follow the development over time.)

Historic atlases indicate this development took place beginning in 1874 and up until as late as 1907. The first houses were built as early as 1886 by G.W. Bourne and C.B. Bourne on Woodbine Street. Woodbine Street was the first street to be heavily developed. It boasts more ornate houses with larger more complex designs than the houses that appeared later on Rockwood and Woodbine Terraces.

Suburbanization occurred in Newton as early as 1834 to 1889. Much of the economic pressure for development came from the significant advances in public transportation in the city of Newton.

The arrival of the Boston & Worcester RailRoad in the 1830s converted the previous open terrain of farmland to suburbia nearly overnight. (See Appendix D-1. Historic atlases dated as early as 1831 indicate railroad tracks laid out across Newton.)

Regular and frequent service of public transportation via the trains resulted in an explosion of real estate development. In the years from 1865-1875 the population of Newton nearly doubled. Much of this population growth is directly related to the railroad improvements instigated by the new Boston and Albany Railroad starting in 1869. And with the electric streetcar's introduction to Newton in the 1890s, farmers like the Bourne's were enticed to cash in on their farmland by selling off lots to prospective buyers.

#### C. HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic photographs appear in appendix B. Historic atlases follow in appendix D. Present photographs and maps of the property are attached in appendices A and C respectively.

#### VII. SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPERTY A. PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

The period of significance for a structure is the time in which that specific building and the property surrounding it gained and retained its architectural and historical significance.

According to the City of Newton's Landmark Preservation Ordinance, chapter 22, section 22-93 of Title 288 states,

(b) The commission by a three-quarters vote may, after public hearing, designate as a landmark any property within the City being a structure or landscape which it determines to be either, (1) importantly associated with one or more architectural, aesthetic, cultural, political, economic, or social history of the City or the Commonwealth or (2) historically or architecturally significant (in terms of period, style, method of construction, or association with a famous architect or builder) either by itself or in the context of a group of structures and may order amendments to any designation of landmark theretofor made. Designation of a landmark or amendment or amendment or recession of previous designation shall include a statement of the reasons for such designation pursuant to the legislative standards established herein.

The period of significance for the Wittemore Tavern/ Bourne House is between 1724 when it was built, and 1874 when the Bournes began to sell off the surrounding property and layout the adjacent streets.

#### **B. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Wittemore Tavern/ Bourne House is historically significant because it is associated with the early settlement and agricultural period of Auburndale (1670s-1775). The property is additionally significant because it is directly linked to William Robinson, who was the original owner of the property, and who initiated Auburndale's first settlement in the 1670s.

The move from this strictly agricultural society probably followed the traffic patterns through Newton to Weston. John Wittemore, who was born in 1730 was licensed in 1766 to keep and run a tavern which he did at the house that now stands at 473 Auburn Street.

Oral history recounts the role of the Wittemore Tavern in the Revolutionary War as playing a significant part as the meeting place for Auburndale soldiers before heading off to fight, and as a reconvening location for the wounded and the tired after battle.

On a less grand scale, the Wittemore Tavern/ Bourne House is also historically significant as an example of the development of a property over time. Although the house remained in the Bourne family for a significant period of time, the economic enticement to partition the land and sell individual suburban lots to the growing numbers of people settling in Newton in the late 1800s, was too great. The historic atlases contest to the explosion of development at the turn of the century.

#### C. ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Wittemore Tavern/ Bourne House is architecturally significant because it is one of the only remaining first period structures left in Auburndale. It is characteristically simple in design, floor plan, and has little to no exterior ornament. Also characteristic to first period farmhouses is its southern orientation, as well as its proximity to the road.

The location and setting of the Wittemore Tavern/ Bourne House is consistent with its historical use as a tavern. Proximity to a heavily traveled road was utilized in its role as a tavern. This proximity to the Massachusetts Turnpike today is consistent with its historical connection to transit.

#### D. LANDMARK DESIGNATION SIGNIFICANCE

The criterion included in the Newton Landmark's Ordinance that apply to the Wittemore Tavern/ Bourne House are the following: The house is associated with William Robinson (a person with historical significance to the establishment of Auburndale as a town). The house is also associated with the broad patterns of development and the flux and flow of individuals through a community in its role as a tavern. Perhaps most importantly, however, the house is architecturally significant in and of itself as one of the only remaining first period structures left standing in Auburndale.

Designation of this house as a landmark is a necessary component of its preservation. Identifying it as historically significant is also important to educate the public about the history of their community. The preservation of the Wittemore Tavern/ Bourne House is also crucial because it is exemplary of first period architecture, and is one of the only remaining structures from this period in the area.

# VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS A. PRESERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

It is of paramount importance that this structure be maintained. Because it was renovated in 1986, there is no immediate need for repair or stabilization. However, the donation of an easement is an option that the property owners should consider. While it could reduce their property taxes, it could benefit the public by ensuring that the house will not be altered or demolished in the future.

The landmark designation should also be recorded individually and in a clear and effective manner at the registry of deeds in order to educated the public to the existence of its status.

#### **B. IMPORTANT FEATURES**

There are no specific important features that need immediate attention or restoration. The house is in solid condition and its fabric and structure are not in any immediate threat to potential deterioration harm.

#### C. FURTHER RESEARCH

Additional research might include a more detailed examination of the chain of title by more closely examining deeds and wills related to the property. The New England Genealogical Society may have more information on the Robinson and Bourne families.

Additionally, only a cursory investigation into building permit documentation regarding alteration of the structure was undertaken in this report (through a brief telephone interview with Gretchen Schuler who indicated the dates of alteration and restoration reported in this project.)

Because many of the historic atlases available for this property do not indicate sufficient detail of the footprint of the building, nailing down exact dates of alteration and renovation is only possible through a more careful examination of family record keeping or public building permits. While family records may be available through genealogical societies, it is unlikely since the Bourne family was a modest farming family and probably didn't donate their records to an archival institute with public access. Building permits are therefor the most accurate methods to determine the dates of any alteration to the structure.

# IX. STANDARDS FOR DESIGN REVIEW A. GENERAL STANDARDS

The Secretary of the Interior's standards for design review ought to be utilized in order to ensure that any future renovation is appropriately undertaken.

#### **B. SPECIFIC STANDARDS**

Because the house was renovated in 1986, and the property owners have maintained the structure with care, the current condition of the property is good. The owners of the property intend to repair the fence which is down in the front of the lot. [Completed July 1997] This will further obscure the view of the house from the street, but it will protect the structure from future car accidents that could possibly injure the structural status of the house.

#### Exterior Walls

- No new openings should be allowed on the main and side facades.
- No existing openings should be filled so that the original opening is not recognizable. Thus a change in an existing opening should be done in such a fashion as to still read as an opening.
- Wood siding should be retained and replaced in kind.

#### Windows

• All windows on the main and side elevations

should be preserved if possible.

- Original window design and arrangement of openings should be retained.
- Deteriorated and missing window elements and architectural features should be replaced with material and elements which match the original in material, texture, size, shape, profile, configuration and detail of installation.

### Entrances/Doors

- The original entrance design and arrangement of door openings should be retained.
- When replacement is necessary, it should be based on physical and documentary evidence.
- Replacement of the front door facing Auburn Street with a wood paneled door with no glass lights would be appropriate and replacement of rear doors with paneled doors and would enhance the impression of the main facade.

## Roof

- Roof elements and shape should be preserved.
- Continued use of asphalt shingles is acceptable and a heavy textured shingle would contribute to the overall appearance.

The following is a list of the books and articles I used in my research. For the most part, these texts are available at the Boston Public Library, the Newton Public Library, and the Jackson Homestead.

Bibliography

- Bates, E. Graham and William H. Cannard. <u>Newton's Older Homes</u>. Newton: N.p. N.d.
- Brimbleton, John C. <u>Beautiful Newton: The Garden City</u>. Boston: Newton Graphic Pub. Co., N.d.
- Brimbleton, John C. <u>Newton: Garden City of the Commonwealth.</u> Boston: Newton Graphic Pub. Co., N.d.
- Hurd, Duane Hamilton, ed., "Newton," in <u>The History of Middlesex</u> <u>County, Massachusetts</u>. Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis, 1890.
- Jackson, Francis. A History of the Early Settlement of Newton, from 1639 to 1800. Boston: Stacey & Richardson, 1854.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission. "Newton," 1981 Reconnaissance Survey File Report.
- <u>Massachusetts Town and City Monograph</u>. Boston: Massachusetts Dept. of Commers and Development, 1975.
- Newton's 19th Century Architecture: Auburndale. Boston: Newton Historical Commission Dept. of Planning and Development, 1981.
- Peloubet, Louise. "Early Days in Auburndale," Newton: Education Committee of the Auburndale Women's Club, 1917.
- Ritter, Priscilla R., and Thelma Fleishman. <u>Newton, Massachusetts</u>, <u>1679-1779</u>. A <u>Biographical Directory</u>. Boston: The New England Historical Geneological Society, 1982.
- Rowe, Henry K. <u>Tercentenary History of Newton, 1630-1930</u>. Cambridge: Murray Printing Co., 1930.
- Smith, Samuel Francis. <u>History of Newton, Massachusetts: Town and City, From its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time, 1630-1880</u>. Boston: American Logotype, 1880.
- Sweetser, M. F. <u>King's Handbook of Newton, Massachusetts</u>. Boston: Moses King, 1889.
- Walker, Albert Perry. <u>Mirror of Newton Past and Present</u>. Boston: N.p., 1907.

## **APPENDIX A**

## **CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF 473 AUBURN STREET**

1. South front facade showing western wall with side addition
2. South front facade with wooden fence (taken from street)
3. Western side of the house with fence (taken from street)
4. Southeast 3/4 view with fence damage (taken from street)
5. Southeast 3/4 view (taken from within the fence)
6. Northern backside of house showing two wings
7. Northwest 3/4 view with western porch addition
8. South facade with detail of front door
9. View from 473 Auburn, looking south to Woodland Road
10. View from 473 Auburn, looking east on Auburn Street



1. SOUTH FRONT FACADE
SHOWING WESTERN WALL WITH SIDE ADDITION



2. SOUTH FRONT FACADE WITH FENCE



3. WESTERN GIDE OF HOUSE



4. SOUTHEAST 3/4 VIEW



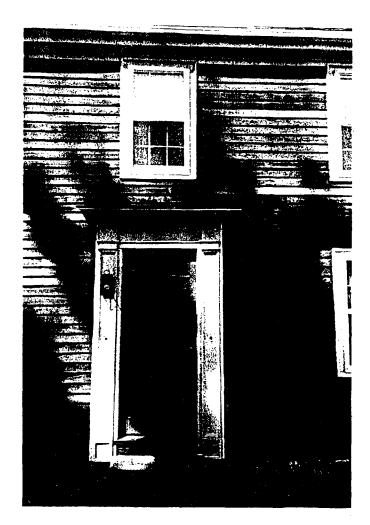
5. SOUTHEAST 34 VIEW



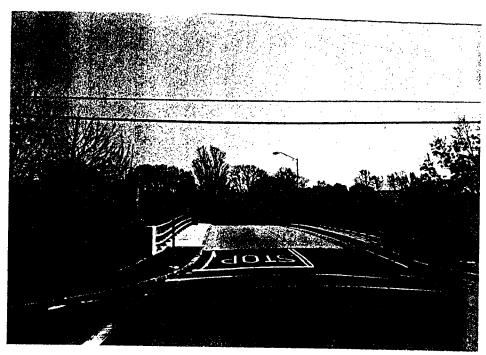
G. NORTHERN/BACK SIDE OF HOUSE



7. NORTHWEST 3/4 VIEW



8. SOUTH FACADE WITH DETAIL OF FRONT DOOR



9. VIEW FROM 473 AUBURN ST. LOCKING SOUTH



10. VIEW FROM 473 AUBURN ST. LOOKING EAST

## **APPENDIX B**

## HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS OF 473 AUBURN STREET

South facade with shutters (Appeared in Auburndale Women's Club edition of Early Days in Auburndale published in 1917.)      Eastern side of house with outbuilding (Dated 1880.)
<b>3. Southeast view</b> (Appeared in the Newton Historical calendar in 1908–courtesy of Eliza E. Bourne. Photographs #2 & #3 appear to be printed from the same negative. Note the leave in the street.)
<ol> <li>Southeast view with stone wall showing outbuilding in rear (1908)</li> <li>Duplicate of #1 blown up to 8 1/2 x 11(1908)</li></ol>

#### 1. South FACADE WITH SHUTTERS. 1917 or EARDER

DALE less on the site of an any other man,

Courtesy of Mrs. Chas. O. Fox THE BOURNE HOUSE Built between 1726-1742.

Once known as Whittemore's Tayern.



The Bourne House, looking south, in 1880.

2. EASTERN SIDE OF HOUSE WITH OUTBUILDING.

is a tradition that me as those now in

Auburndale. What ted into a substanthe earliest homevas evidently a man of the selectmen of

deeds to three of i, dividing the farm n to a third person onor. He gave his on, Jeremiah; 58½ es to his son, John, arallel with the old

s before his father. homestead (on the No. 2159 Commonpassed to his sis-1773 the land was e house now standfix this date by the er to the men who small that she fell is married Walter 'are, bought all the



Courtesy of Miss Eliza E. Bourne.

WHITTEMORE'S TAVERN, AUBURNDALE.

Built in 1724. For many years has been known as the Bourne House.

3. SouthEAST VIEW WITH OUTBUILDING (1908) or earlier)



Photograph by II. O. Ryder

THE BOURNE HOUSE AUBURNDALE

(Formerly "Nathaniel Whittemore's Tavern")

The Bourne House, known in the days of the Revolution as "Nathaniel Whittemore's Tavern," is the oldest house now standing in Auburndale, having been built sometime between 1726 and 1742. It stands at 473 Auburn Street, at the junction of that street with Woodland Road, on a part of the land which two hundred years ago was the farm of William Robinson, founder of what is now Auburndale. On Christmas Day, 1742, William Robinson, the elder, divided his property, consisting of some two hundred fertile acres bordering the Charles River, among his three sons—William, John, and Jeremiah.

To William fell the land on which now stands the Bourne House, also the house itself which in 1764 was purchased by John Whitmore, whose made. Nathaniel Whitmore, opened it as a tavern, the name of which was spelled with the additional "te." The old house had passed about a half-century of its existence when the guns of Concord announced the beginning of the Revolutionary War. Modern historians have dwelt on the possibility of the patrons congregating at "Nathaniel Whittemore's" during the stirring days that ensued, and there exchanging views and bringing tidings of the conflict. Weston Bridge, near which the tavern was conveniently located, has been pictured as a witness of the passage of patriot-troops.

John Whitmore in 1773 sold the tavern to John Pigeon. Later the property came into the possession of the Bourne family. In 1800 the house is said to have been one of seven within the present limits of the village extending to Weston Bridge, near which it still stands—a quaint reminder of the early days.

COMPLIMENTS OF THE

#### STATE STREET TRUST COMPANY

MAIN OFFICE, 33 STATE STREET
BACK BAY BRANCHES
COPLEY SQUARE, 579 BOYLSTON STREET
MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, COR. BOYLSTON STREET
(SAFE DEPOSIT VAULTS
AT ALL OFFICES)

4. Southeast view with out BUILDING.



iph by H.O. Ryder

Courtesy Mrs. N. F. Perkins

# THE BOURNE HOUSE AUBURNDALE

(Formerly "Nathaniel Whittemore's Tavern")

The Bourne House, known in the days of the Revolution as "Nathaniel Whittemore's Tavern," is the oldest house now standing in Auburndale, having ilt sometime between 1726 and 1742. It stands at 473 Auburn Street, at the junction of that street with Woodland Road, on a part of the land which two

25



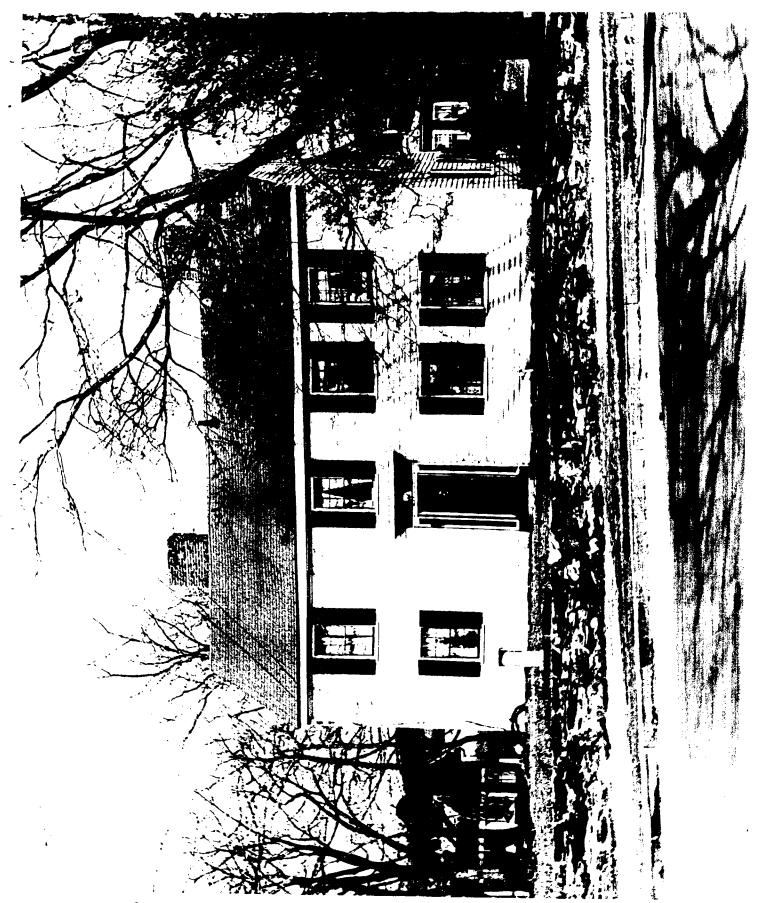
6 Southeast 3/4 view with SHUTIERS + OUTBUILDING



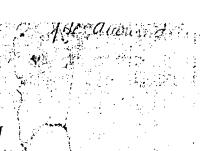
SILLITERS (LIGHER) SOUTH FACADE LEITH

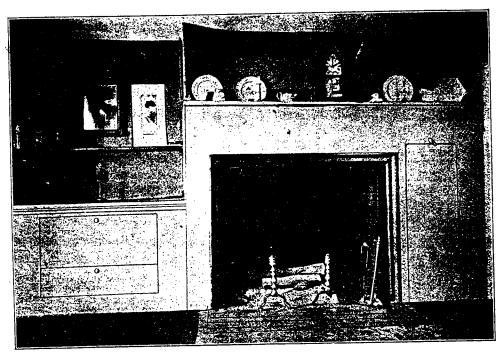


CIGUE) 8. EASTEAN SIDE OF HOUSE



9. South FACADE WITH SHUTTERS - OUTBUILDING 1252 PLACED WITH NEW HEUSE





Courtesy of Mr. H. B. Fowle

According to tradition, the Kitchen of Whittemore's Tavern with the Bar at the left.

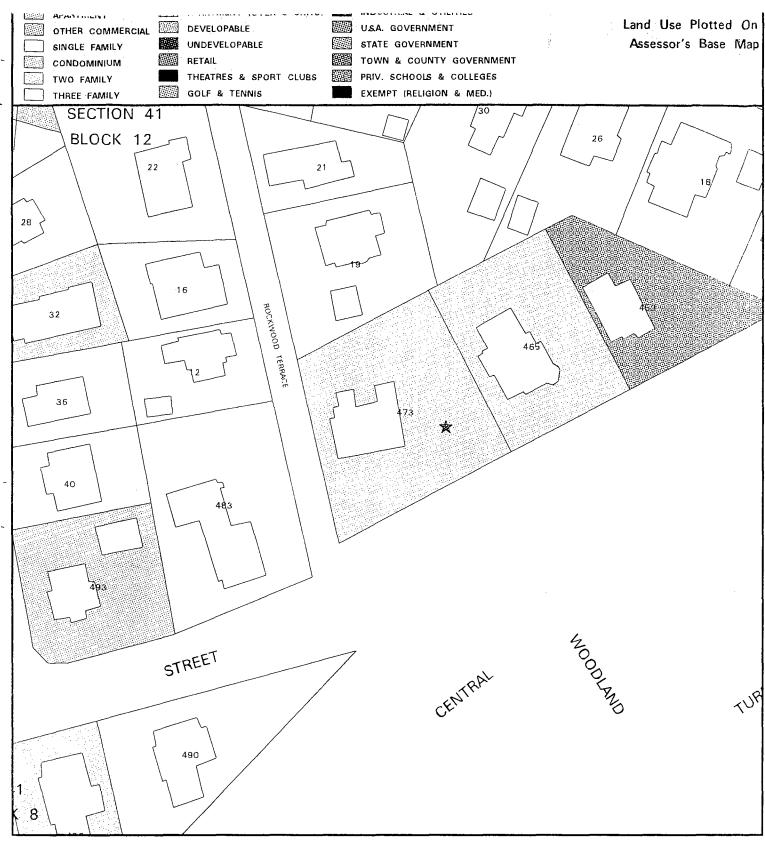
VF & 477 Aborn ST

10. INTERIOR DIEW OF WITTEHOLS TAVERY BAIRNE HOUSE FIREPLACE WITH BAR TO LEFT

# **APPENDIX C**

## CURRENT ASSESSOR'S MAPS OF 473 AUBURN STREET

1. Newton Land Use Sheet- assessor's base map for 473 Auburn Street
(Based on a 1979 aerial photograph. The GIS data base and
map layout was prepared by Applied Geographics, Inc. The
property is marked in red.)
2. City of Newton Assessor's Map Sheet #38 (Metric series. 1979. The
property is marked in red.)



## Newton Land Use Sheet

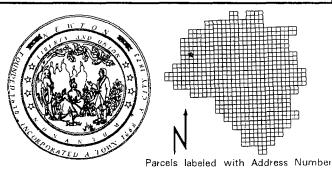
**NEWTON** 

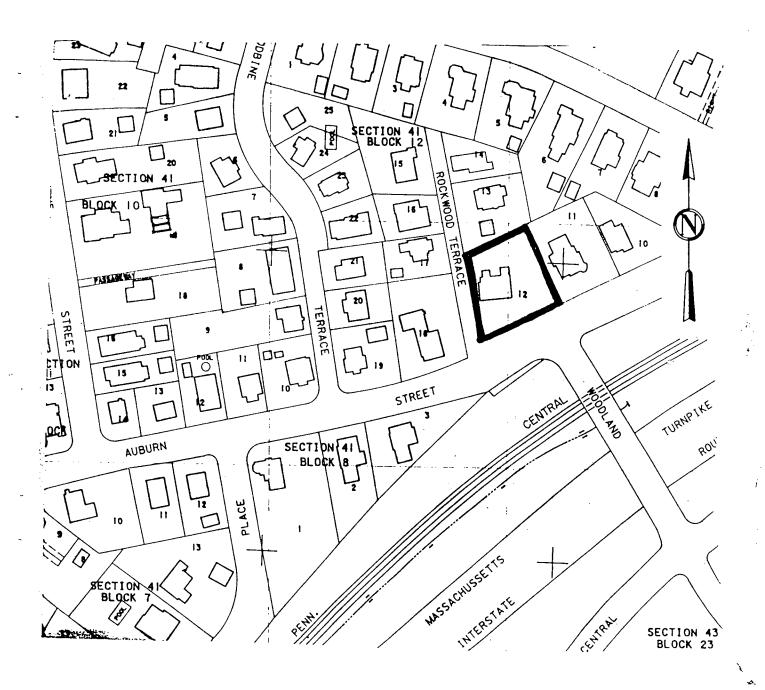
MASSACHUSETTS

PLANNING DEPT. 1000 COMMONWEALTH AVE. NEWTON CENTRE, MA 02159

Scale: 1'' = 61 ft.

Map scale: 1": 732" (1" = 61') - Produced on: November 30, 1993 Map projection & coordinate system: Massachusetts State Plane - NAD83 Source data from Newton Assessor's office, based on 1979 aerial orthophotography GIS data base and map layout prepared by Applied Geographics, Inc. Boston, MA





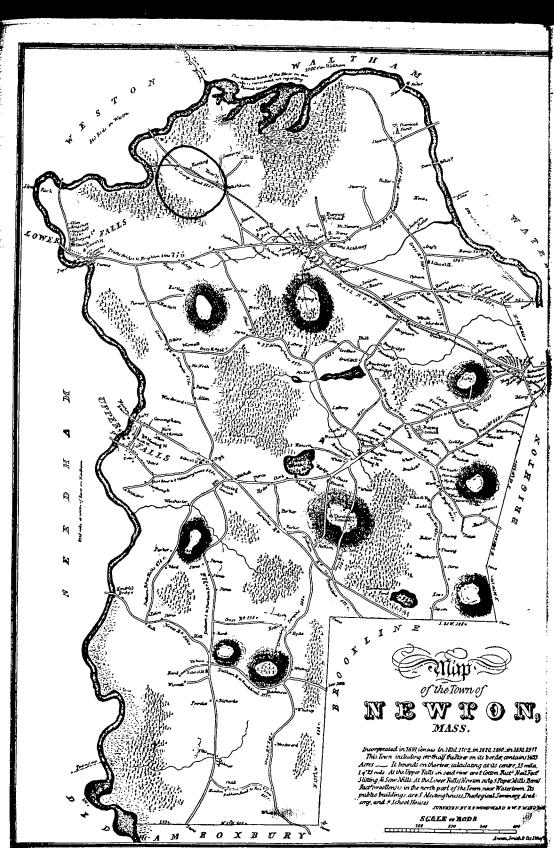
2.
City of Newton Assessor's Maps. Sheet 38
Metric Series. 1979
Scale: UTM grid line interval = 100 meters (328 feet)

Newton, Mass. M.R.A. 473 Auburn Street, Auburndale 41-12-12

# **APPENDIX D**

## HISTORIC ATLASES OF 473 AUBURN STREET

1. Historic atlas of 473 Auburn Street and surrounding property
(This map shows the topography, early streets, and
the railroad as seen from top left to right. The property
location is marked in red.)
2. Historic atlas of 473 Auburn St. and surrounding property
(Rendered in 1917, but meant to depict the landscape,
topography, street lay outs and structures as far back
as 1740. Note the designation of 473 Auburn as built
before 1800.)
3. Historic atlas of 473 Auburn St. and surrounding property (1874)
4. Historic atlas of 473 Auburn St. and surrounding property (1886)
5. Historic atlas of 473 Auburn St. and surrounding property (1895)
6. Historic atlas of 473 Auburn St. and surrounding property (1907)
7. Historic atlas of 473 Auburn St. and surrounding property (1917)
8. Historic atlas of 473 Auburn St. and surrounding property (1929)



EARI

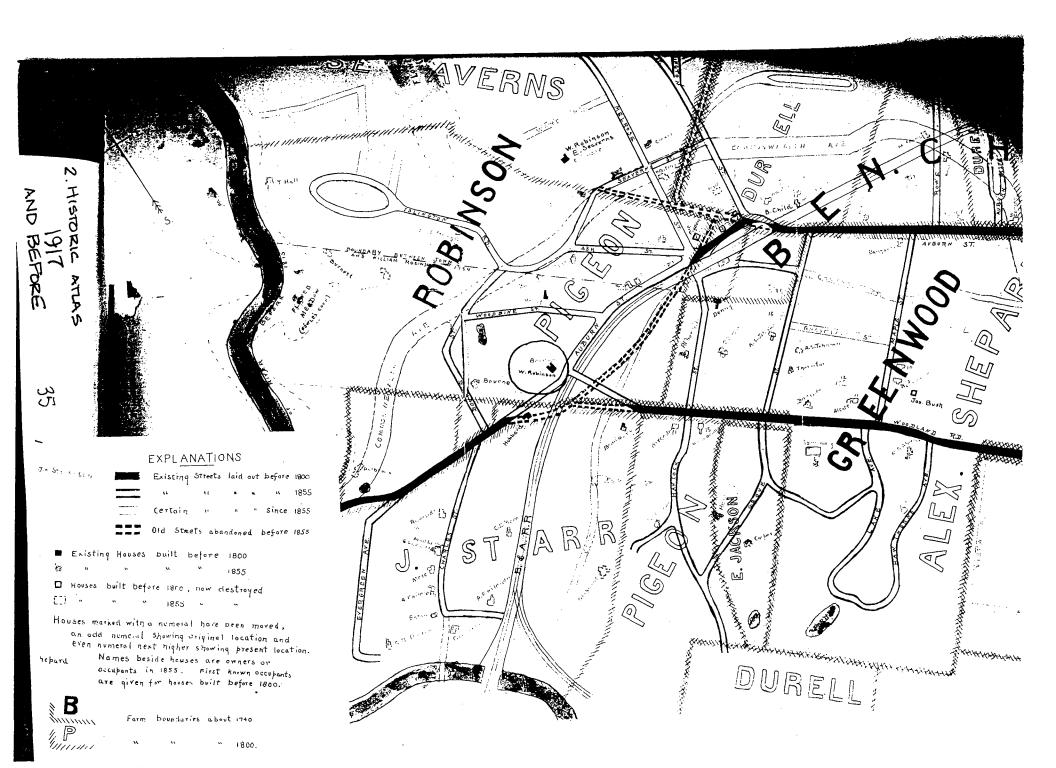
The land the white Towne, the town large ton and ? South Side Indian nar this region bridge," a: ancient and

The dec title to her Indians inc of the Chaof money 😽 "and also every wint ton to her I Peninsula 1

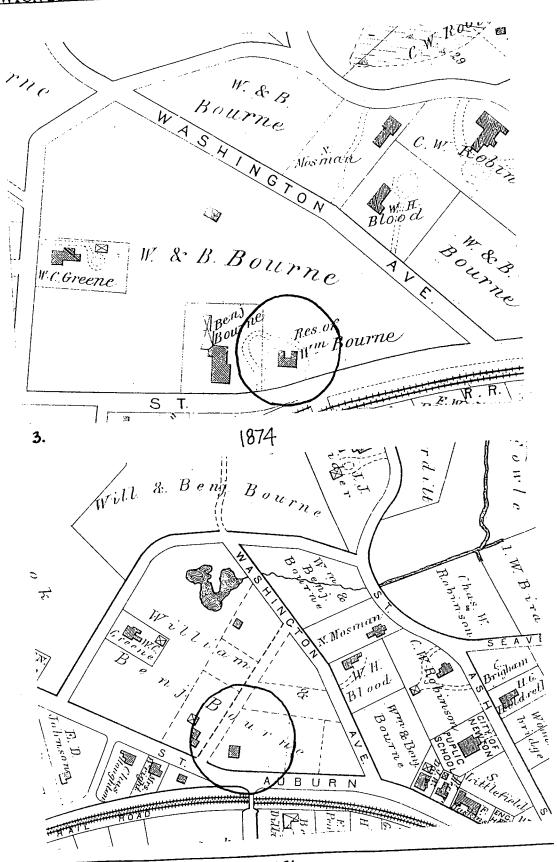
Prior to dale seems that year . lands, over acres amoi dale. The running lis ton Street created bei

1. HISTORIC ATLAS 1831

MAP OF NEWTON, 1831 34

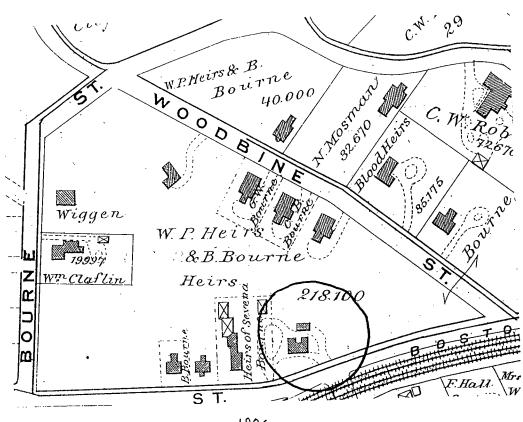


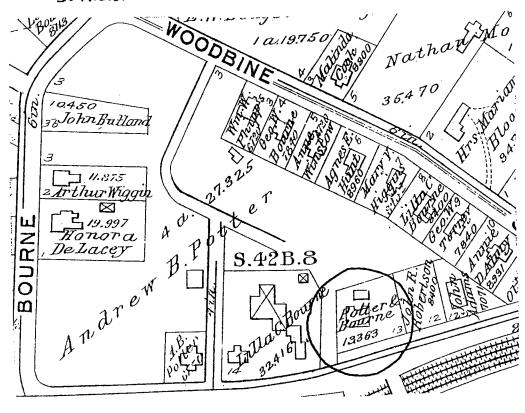
## 473 AUBURN STREET NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02166 NEWTON LOCAL LANDMARKS NOMINATION REPORT



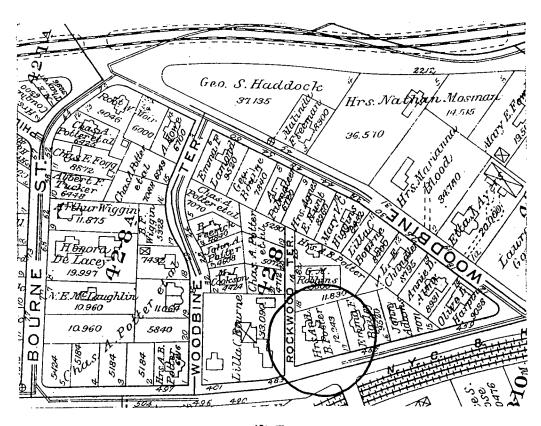
PAGE 36

3. HISTORIC ATLAS 1874

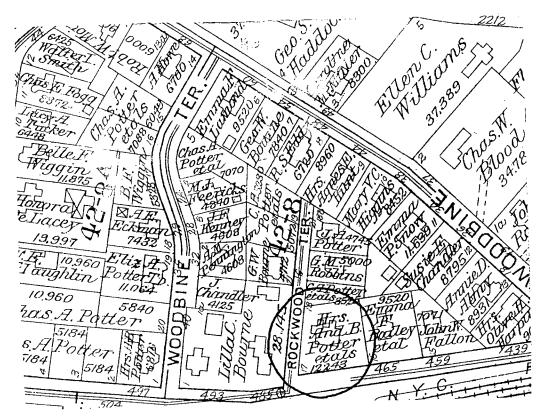




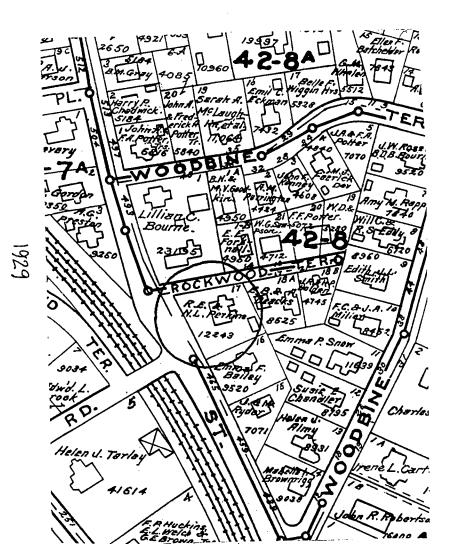
1895



1907



1917



PAGE 41