



Town of Duxbury

Massachusetts

Planning Board

Date: November 8, 2022

To: Massachusetts Historical Commission

From: Planning Department

Re: Revised Preliminary Study Report – November 2022

Attached is the revised Preliminary Study Report for the addition to the existing Powder Point District in Duxbury. The addition to this district is expected to be brought to the Spring Annual Town Meeting 2023 on Saturday, March 11, 2023.

On behalf of the Local Historic District Commission, we kindly request approval of the proposed addition to the Powder Point District from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. We also request that the Duxbury Planning Board provide a recommendation to Town Meeting on the proposed addition to the Powder Point District.

Please contact the Local Historic District Commission if you have any questions. Contact information can be found on Page 1 of the attached Report.

Thanks!

cc: Planning Board
Local Historic District Commission
Town Manager

878 Tremont Street, Duxbury, MA 02332; Telephone: 781-934-1100 x 5476; www.town.duxbury.ma.us/planning

The mission of the Town of Duxbury is to deliver excellent services to the community in the most fiscally responsible and innovative manner while endeavoring to broaden our sense of community and preserve the unique character of our town.

PRELIMINARY STUDY REPORT

Proposed Expansion to the Powder Point District

BY:

The Duxbury Local Historic District Commission

November 2022



Preliminary Study Report

Proposed Addition to the Powder Point Historic District:

The Reuben Drew House (1794)

30 Powder Point Avenue

Duxbury, MA 02332

By: The Duxbury Local Historic District Commission

November 2022

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Summary Sheet

The contact person for this Local Historic District Submission is:

Pamela Campbell Smith, AIA
Chair of the Duxbury Local Historic District Commission
243 Saint George Street
Duxbury, MA 02332
C: (339)832-1879

Commission Members:

Pamela Campbell Smith, AIA, Chair
Georgia Taft Pye, Board of Realtors, Duxbury Rural and Historical Society Representative
Janet Ritch, Duxbury Resident from a Local Historic District
Robert C. (Terry)Vose III, Duxbury Resident from a Local Historic District
Phil Tuck, Alternate
Evelyn Walker, Alternate

Study Committee Members:

Pamela Campbell Smith
Evelyn Walker
Janet Ritch
Georgia Taft Pye

Important Dates:

This Preliminary Study proposes that the Reuben Drew House be added to the Powder Point Local Historic District Station.

The expected date of the Public Hearing for this proposed addition to the Powder Point Local Historic District in Duxbury is January 9, 2023.

The expected date of the Annual Town Meeting is March 11, 2023.

Introduction:

In Duxbury, Massachusetts, a small coastal community with a long and significant agricultural and shipbuilding history dating back to its settlement by a number of original Mayflower families, a By-Law has been enacted by Annual Town Meeting to protect the homes and structures that make the town remarkable. The By-Law, created by the Local Historic District Commission (LHDC) after a two-year study, is used to determine which structures are believed to have historical value and subsequently place those structures under protection from demolition and building alterations that would significantly change their appearance and character.

Duxbury structures under protection of the By-Law are established as part of a number of Local Historic Districts (LHD). A number of LHD properties exist in the town today and many more property owners are considering designating their homes as well. Properties are volunteered by their owners and then added to LHD's by warrants proposed and then voted on at the Annual Town Meeting. The work of the LHDC to add properties to LHD's is crucial for encouraging the protection of historical buildings that lend the Town of Duxbury its unique charm. Some community benefits of LHD's include:

Preserving the character and aesthetic of Duxbury

Protecting the rich history and beauty of Duxbury

Fostering a sense of pride within the community

Providing educational opportunities for generations to come

Connecting Duxbury residents to the history of their town

In Duxbury to date, there are thirteen LHD's:

<u>Name of District</u>	<u>Year Established</u>	<u>Number of Properties so far</u>
Bradford District	2011	15
Bay Road District	2016	1
Bay View District	2016	1
First Parish District	2011	1
King Caesar District	2018	1
Keenes Brook District	2022	1
Millbrook District	2016	1

Powder Point District	2016	2
Surplus Street District	2017	3
Tarkiln District	2022	1
Temple Street District	2022	1
Washington Street District	2018	2
Winsor District	2011	9

Each of these properties in the above LHD's was volunteered by their owners. Subsequently they were presented as warrants and voted on at the Annual Town Meeting. Currently, there are four properties to be proposed as LHD structures for the Spring 2023 Annual Town Meeting. The Duxbury LHDC is proposing that this property, the Reuben Drew House, be added to the Powder Point LHD, based on its location closest to the other two properties in this district. It is not contiguous as properties are added to LHD's in Duxbury when they are volunteered by their owners. The owners of this property would like to have this property covered by the LHD protections. Although it is located in the National Register of Historic Places Old Shipbuilders District, the Reuben Drew House has no future protections of the structure under that designation.

EXPANSION OF THE POWDER POINT LHD

The Reuben Drew House:

Introduction:

This stately Federal style house located at 30 Powder Point Avenue was built in 1794 by Reuben Drew, a prominent ship builder in Duxbury at that time. The Drew Shipyard was nearby and was one of the most productive companies in the town. The house is one of “a remarkable row of seven Federal-style houses on Powder Point Avenue, just north of the wharves”.

The Duxbury Local Historic District Commission recommends that the Reuben Drew House be added to the Powder Point Historic District as it is an important building for both its architectural style and its location and its connection to Duxbury’s shipbuilding history.

Methodology:

This house is a part of Duxbury’s shipbuilding history. It is a highly visible reminder of that era in a particularly scenic area of the town. That area was recognized in the National Register of Historic Places on August 21, 1986, when it was established as The Old Shipbuilders District. Later on, W. Frontiero and C. Jenkins, hired by the Duxbury Historical Commission, presented their research in March 2010 and that history can be found in MACRIS as Form Number Dux.110. The MACRIS file provides a valuable architectural description and history of the property. This preliminary study is based on the National Register and MACRIS information which are attached herewith. A few updates have been added for historical interest regarding later inhabitants and the two more recent structures added to the property.

The LHDC is grateful to the property owner, Jon Daley, who approached the Commission and volunteered his property for inclusion in the Powder Point LHD. The LHDC supports the inclusion of this property in the Powder Point LHD.

Significance:

This Federal style house was the second house built by the shipbuilder Reuben Drew. The National Register dates it to 1809, later than the date boarded date of 1794. It is one of more than forty Federal style homes built in this area of the town between circa 1790 and 1830. The building has a distinctive portico with paired, tapered columns. Often this style home originally featured a long single-story ell which extended perpendicular to the main block of the house and were which believed to have housed shipbuilding activities.

In the early twentieth century this house was known as Sally B. Taylor's guesthouse. With its lovely view of the Bluefish River and Duxbury Bay beyond, it was a very popular summer resort location. According to Margery L. Macmillan in her book Stopping Places Along Duxbury Roads (Duxbury, Mass.: Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, 1991), Sally B. came from Philadelphia along with her help each summer to run her business.

Because of the Drew House's shipbuilding history, it seems fitting to note that two twentieth and twenty-first century owners were also associated with that trade. The twentieth century owner with ties to shipbuilding was Robert Stanton Fox, a naval architect, who used the upstairs of the barn as his studio and office space. He served as the head of civil defense in Duxbury during World War II. He and his wife, Marie Haffenreffer Fox, who had trained as a landscape architect and who designed the stone wall and plantings at the front of the property, purchased the Reuben Drew House in 1946. What is referred to a the "period fence" in MACRIS and the National Register files was actually the widow's walk from the house next door(22 Powder Point) repurposed because of hurricane and storm damage occurring on the roof.

The Foxes raised four children in that house: Marie Elizabeth, Joanne Louise (now Josie Fox Hanlon), Peter Marlin, and Patricia Robin. Daughter Marie is the noted artist Marie Fox Young. It was the youngest daughter, known as Robin, who helped her father build the "Cedar Chip" in the late 1950's or early 1960's. It was not built to be a storage shed, but rather a cabin where the children and their friends could camp out. It had a wood stove, a loft and fold-down bunks (ship



Justification of the Boundaries:

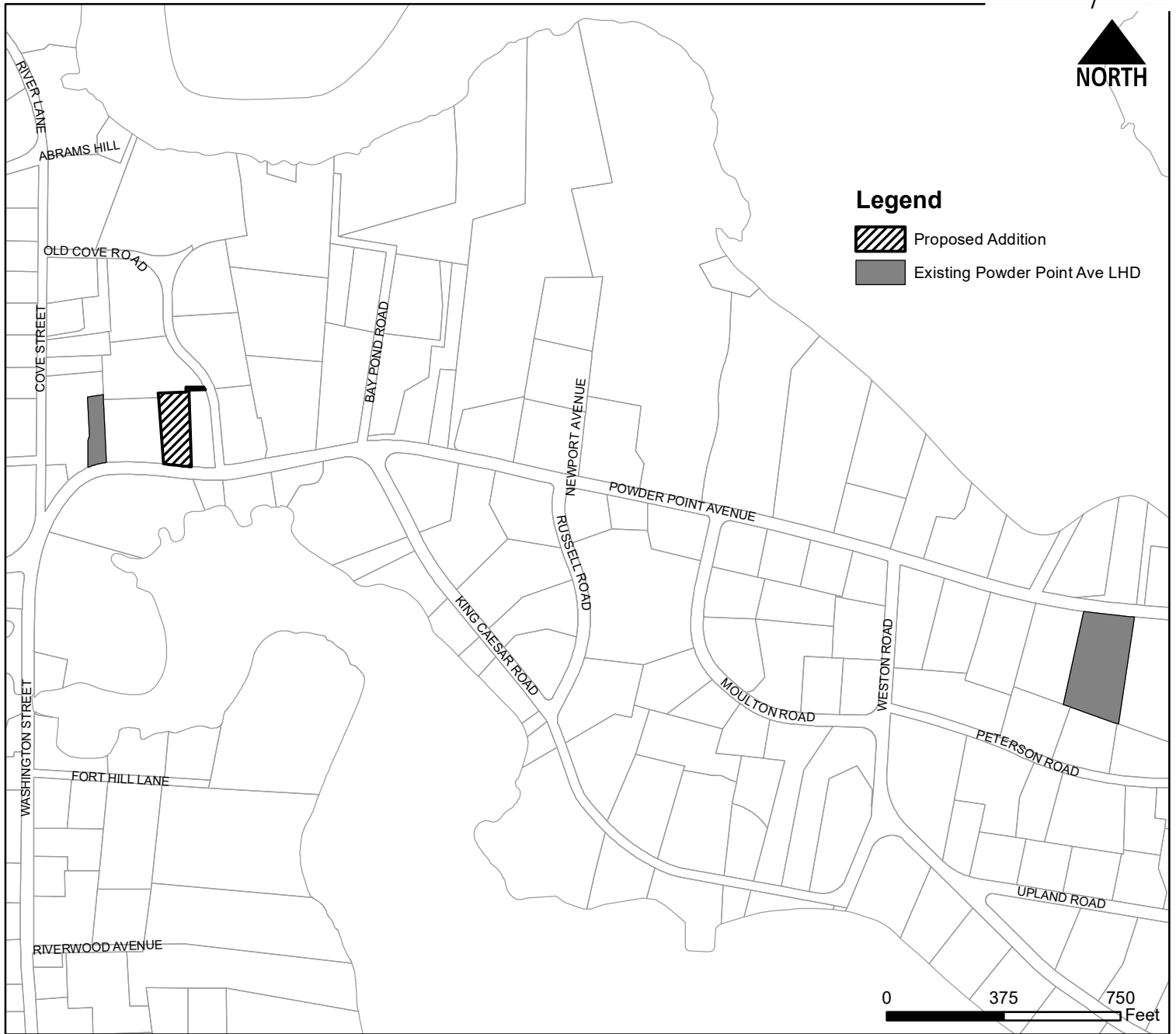
The Reuben Drew House, now numbered as 30 Powder Point Avenue, sits on its original land and is now assigned Town Parcel ID Number 117-064-000.

The Duxbury LHDC would like to add the Reuben Drew House to the existing Powder Point Local Historic District. It will be the third property in this district and it is the LHDC's hope in coming years to add additional abutting and nearby historic properties to expand and complete this LHD.



Legend

-  Proposed Addition
-  Existing Powder Point Ave LHD



ADDITION TO POWDER POINT AVE LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT - ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2023

Proposed District	Address	Parcel ID	Owner
Pow der Point Ave LHD	The Reuben Drew House - 30 Pow der Point Ave	117-064-000	Jon P. Daley (Paul Flanagan, Tr., & Evelyn Moreno, Tr.)

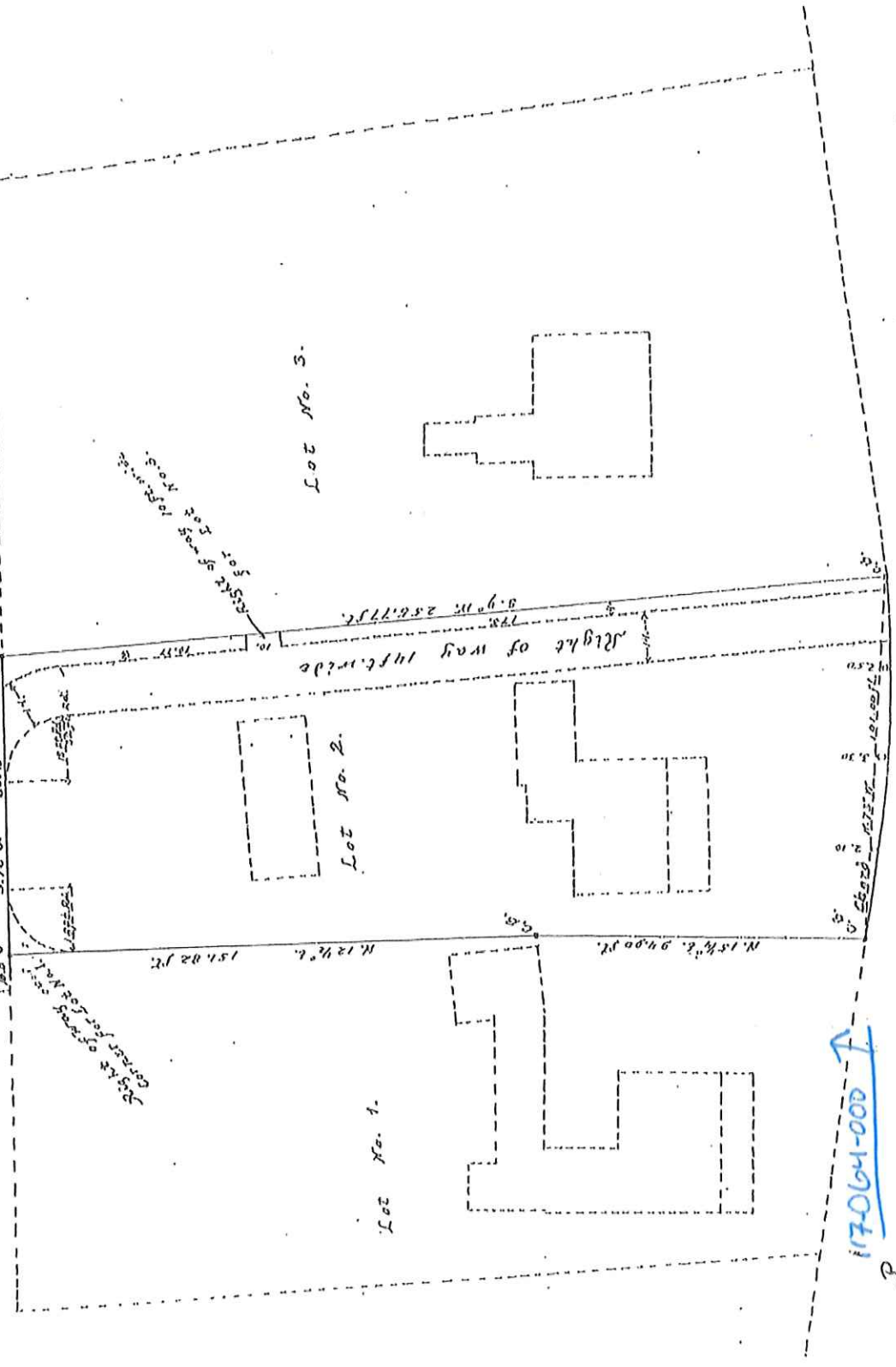
2836
2 773



Lot No. 2 sold by
Mary E. Fisher
Herman E. Bumpus
Duzbury, Mass. May 4, 1921. Same left to tingh.



Right of way 14 ft. wide
Right of way 5 ft. wide
Right of way 14 ft. wide
Right of way 14 ft. wide



177064-000

P O D E T P O I N T E

PROPERTY INDEX:

Street Address	Parcel ID	Historic Name	Date of Construction	Architectural Style	MHC ID
30 Powder Point Avenue	117-061-000	Reuben Drew House	1794	Federal	Dux. 110

OTHER PROPERTIES IN THE POWDER POINT LHD:

Street Address	Parcel ID	Historic Name	Date of Construction	Architectural Style	MHC ID
14 Powder Point Avenue	117-062-000	Isaac Chandler House	1809	Federal Cape	Dux. 13

Street Address	Parcel ID	Historic Name	Date of Construction	Architectural Style	MHC ID
283 Powder Point Ave.	124-102-003	Peter's Barn and Western Ship Shed	c. 1799	Barn Post-war Traditional	Dux. 774

Options and Recommendations for the By Law:

In adding this property to the existing Powder Point Historic District, there is not a need for options or recommended changes to the Bylaw.

Ordinance and recommendations for the Ordinance or By Law:

There is no need for any recommendations to the ByLaw with adding this property to the Powder Point Historic District.

CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS



Front of house, facing south



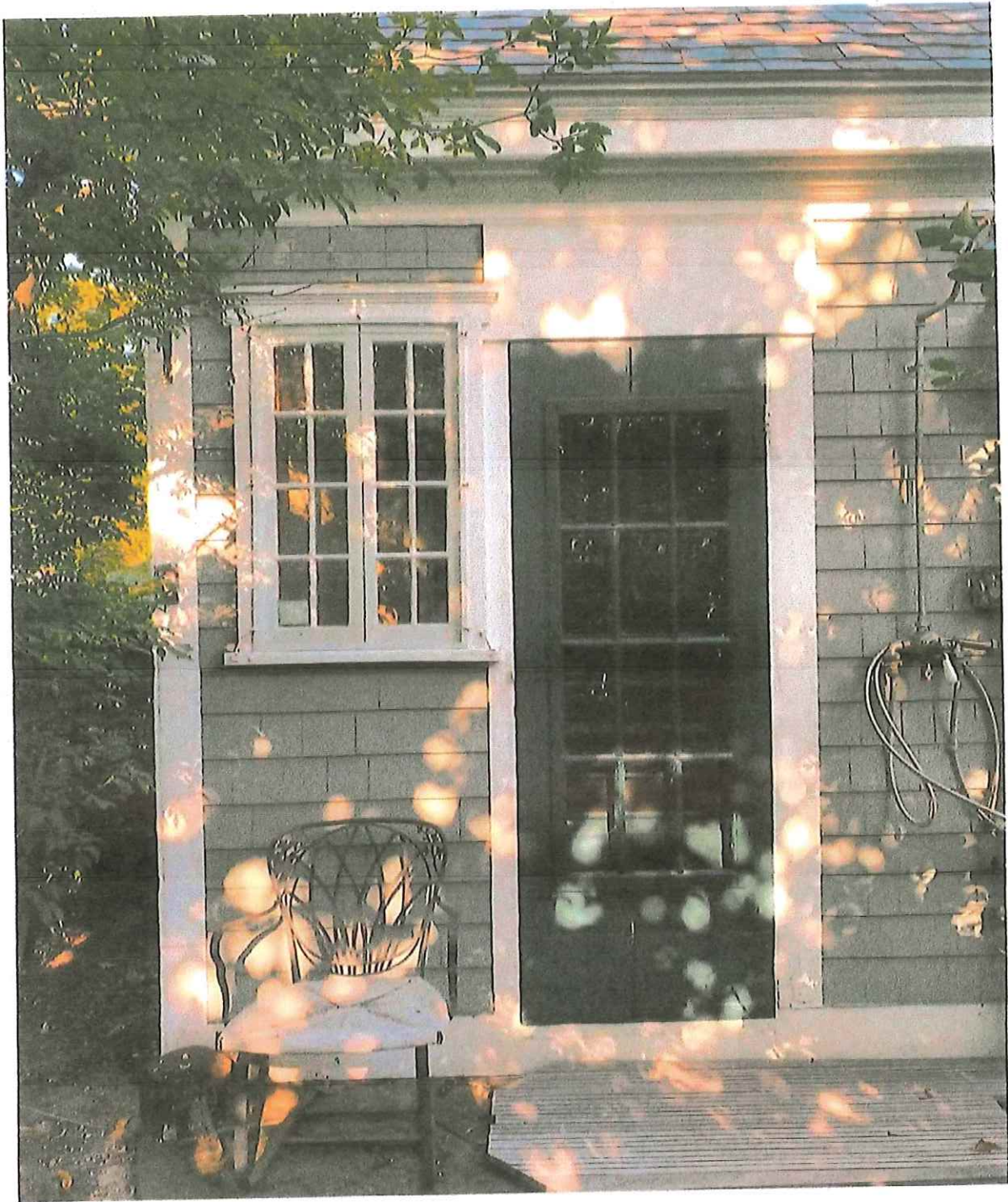
Rear of house, facing north. To the left is the ca. 1800 barn, to the right is the kitchen addition, ca. 1946.



Southeast corner of house with 20th-century screened porch.



North side of the archway connecting barn and house.



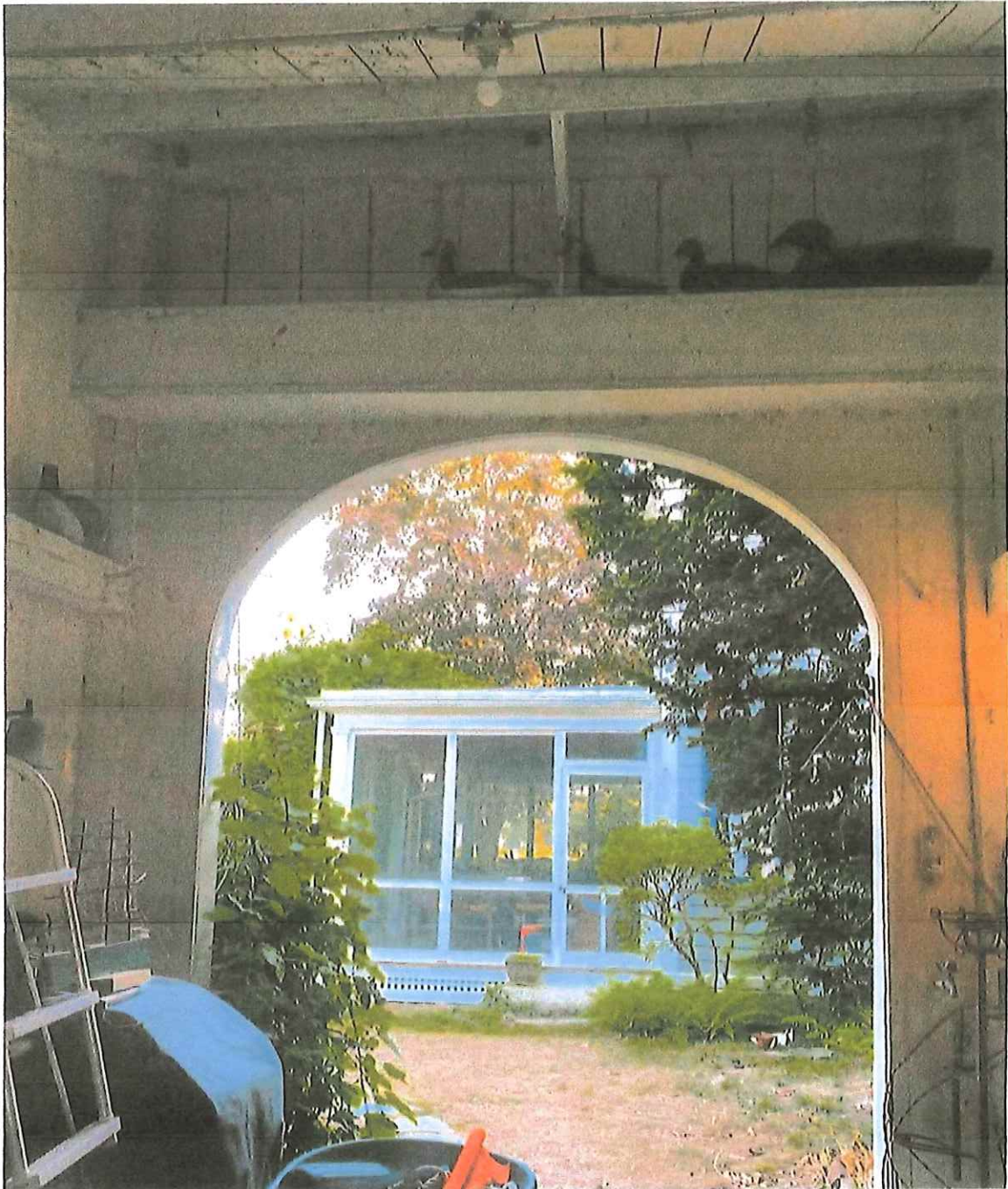
Northwest corner, side entrance in kitchen addition.



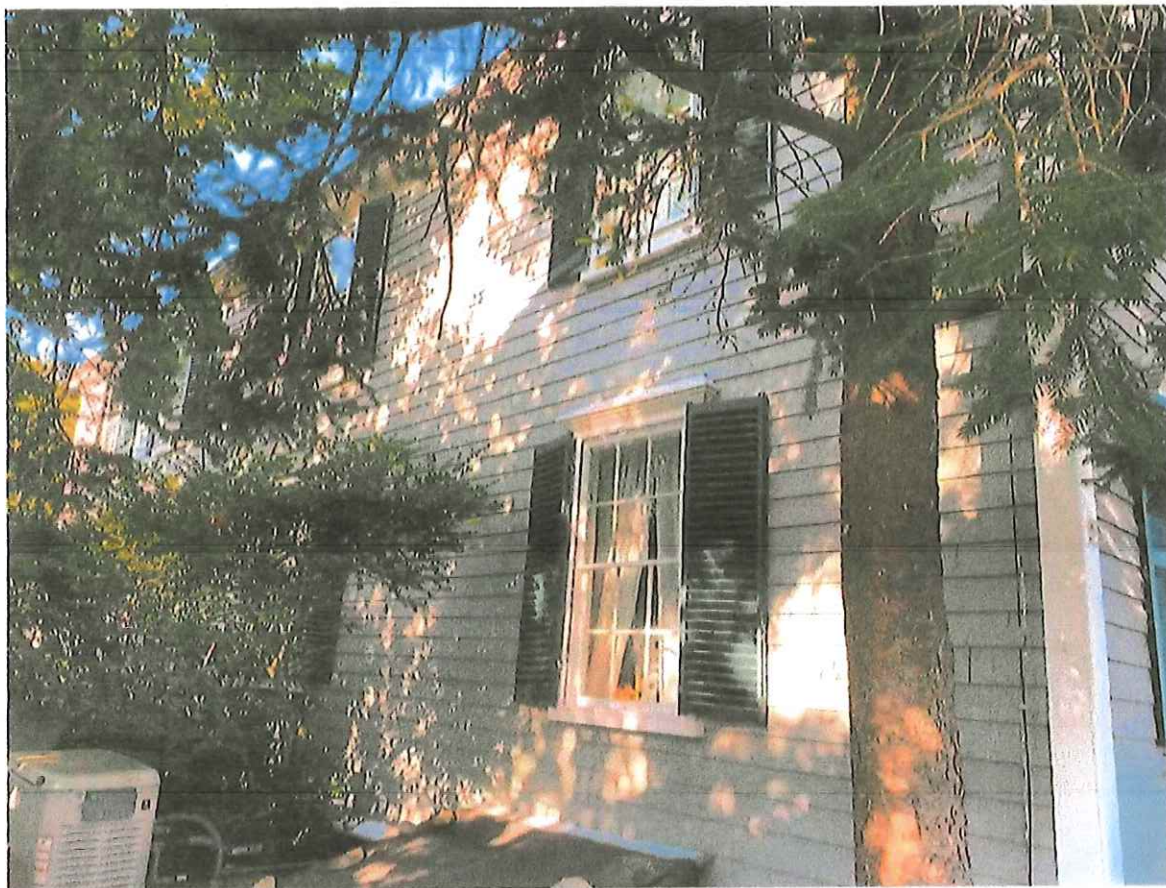
Northeast corner of house with dining room entrance, facing east.



Northwest corner of house, showing the one-story ell with dining room window.



Inside archway, facing south.



West side of house.