

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

B

Area	Form no.
	506

40-13

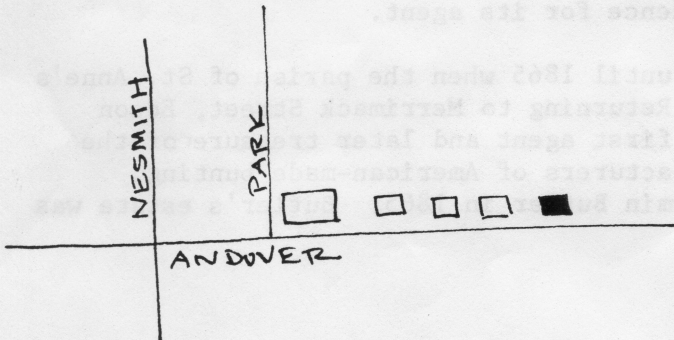
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Lowell  
Address 282 Andover Street  
Historic Name The Manse  
Original Residential  
Present Residential  
Ownership: ☒ Private individual  
Private organization  
Public  
Original owner Timothy Atkinson

location in relation to nearest  
cross streets and other buildings  
or geographical features.  
Indicate north.

1  
2



DESCRIPTION:  
Date c. 1847  
Source deed research  
Style Gothic Revival  
Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
Exterior wall fabric random ashlar  
Outbuildings carriage house (altered)  
Major alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Approx. acreage 1 1/4  
Setting Residential

Recorded by Elizabeth Durfee Hengen  
Organization DPD Architectural Survey  
Date 1/81

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

Gothic houses are rare in Lowell, particularly those of stone. This example was built in the traditional cruciform plan with four cross gables. Windows have granite sills and lintels capped with double hood labels. A piazza extends continuously around three sides of the building.

Its unaltered condition and architectural sophistication make it one of Lowell's most significant residences.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

The Manse has been the home of several prominent 19th century Lowell citizens, including two ministers and a mill agent.

Built by Timothy Atkinson ca. 1847 on land formerly owned by the Nesmith brothers, it was one of the first houses on Andover Street, erected shortly after the John Nesmith and Butler Houses. Atkinson was the minister of the High Street Congregation Church. In 1850, desiring to sell the house to another minister, Atkinson proposed favorable terms to Theodore Edson, the first and longtime pastor of St. Anne's Church. Until 1843 Edson had been living in the stone rectory next to the church, but was forced to leave when the Merrimack Manufacturing Corporation, who had owned the building since it was erected, decided to use it as a residence for its agent.

Edson remained at 282 Andover Street until 1865 when the parish of St. Anne's negotiated to purchase the rectory. Returning to Merrimack Street, Edson sold The Manse to DeWitt Farrington, first agent and later treasurer of the U.S. Bunting Company, the first manufacturers of American-made bunting. The company had been founded by Benjamin Butler in 1865; Butler's estate was across the street from The Manse.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Coolidge, Mill and Mansion, figure 52  
S.B.R.A., Inventory of Cultural Resources, Volume 7  
Contributions, Volume 4:211-12, 353  
Northern Middlesex Registry:69/245