

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

Area	Form no.
	490

XV-2A

219



Lowell

Address 21 Wyman

Historic Name Moody-Richardson House

Original Residential

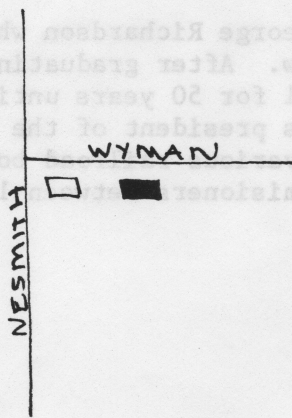
Present Residential

Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization

Public

Original owner Mrs. Paul Moody

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



DESCRIPTION:

Date ca. 1846

Source map and directory research

Style Italianate

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings _____

Major alterations (with dates) house turned 90°; Federal Revival entrance - early 20th century

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage less than one

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)

21 Wyman Street was originally built to face Nesmith Street c. 1846. Its Italianate design is similar to other residences in the area, but has been modified by a Federal Revival entrance. This alteration presumably occurred between 1906 and 1924 when the house was moved 90° to face onto Wyman Street.

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

This house was built by the widow of Paul Moody ca. 1846. Paul Moody (1779-1831) was one of the leaders in the early years of the textile industry. In 1814 he was hired by the Boston Manufacturing Co. in Waltham to superintend the setting up of the machinery. His inventions were directly responsible for the success of the operations. In 1823 Moody left for Lowell to take charge of the Lowell Machine Shop where he remained until his death.

Mrs. Paul Moody occupied the house for about 15 years. In 1866 Daniel Richardson purchased the property.

Daniel Richardson (1816-1890) was the brother of George Richardson who lived at 172 Nesmith and with whom he practiced law. After graduating from Harvard, Daniel Richardson practiced in Lowell for 50 years until 1890. He was active in local business affairs, serving as president of the Lowell Manufacturing Company, Prescott National Bank and various railroad boards. During his tenure as chairman of of the county commissioners between 1850 and 1856, the county jail was erected.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Contributions, Vol. 4:131-2,357, I:41-3
Illustrated History of Lowell (1897), pp. 229-31
Coburn, History of Lowell, Vol. II, p. 42