

Grindell Gardner House
30 Hussey Street
Nantucket
Nantucket County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-927

HABS
MASS
10-NANT
46-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

GRINDELL GARDNER HOUSE

HABS
MASS

10-NANT

Location: 30 Hussey Street (on east side of Hussey Street), 46-
Nantucket, Massachusetts.

Present Owners: Henry B. Coleman and Priscilla Coleman Mayhew

Present Occupants: Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Coleman

Present Use: Residence

Brief Statement
of Significance:

Gambrel front, lean-to behind, this small house indicates many of the architectural additions and changes made on Nantucket homes over the centuries.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:

- 1772 -- Grindell Gardner built house on land which was part of a large tract formerly owned by his grandfather, Abel Gardner, whose own home, the Abel Gardner Mansion House, later known as the Drew House, still stands at No. 25 Hussey Street. Abel Gardner's daughter Abigail married Caleb Gardner, son of Joseph Gardner, and their son Grindell built the house.
- 1802 -- Absalom Coffin bought property from Elizabeth Gardner, widow of Grindell Gardner, who died in 1801.
- 1842 -- Emmeline Coffin inherited from her father, Absalom Coffin.
- 1868 -- Henry Gardner Brown bought from Emmeline Coffin.
- 1891 -- Benjamin F. Brown by deed from heirs of Henry G. Brown.
- 1892 -- Mary A. Brown inherited from her husband.
- 1921 -- Carrie B. Coleman and Mary E. Giffin, daughters of Benjamin F. and Mary A. Brown, inherited.
- 1940 -- Carrie B. Coleman inherited on death of Mary E. Giffin.

1950 -- to date -- Henry B. Coleman and Priscilla
Coleman Mayhew inherited from their mother,
Garrie B. Coleman.

(Abstract, Records Registry Deeds, Nantucket,
Mass. and records in possession of owners.)

2. Date of erection: 1772. (Abstract, Records in Possession
of Owners)
3. Architect: Not known.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: House was built
where it now stands and was not moved in from Sherburne,
the former site of the Town, as were many earlier houses.

It is a gambrel roof cottage of an unusual type, having
the gambrel on the front side only, with peak roof in
back. A jut-out at the rear originally contained the
summer kitchen and a water closet.

5. Notes on alterations and additions: During the 1890's
small windows were added on the front roof and the large
central chimney was taken out to make way for the narrow
front stairs which were out in the front hallway. The
several fireplaces were closed at that time, but the base
of the chimney is still in the cellar.

The house has been modernized for comfortable living.
The shed roof at back has been extended to make a sitting-
room and utility spaces. A large living room was added
on the northeast corner of the house.

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Bunker's
Court was opened by the heirs of Caleb Gardner in 1799. In
that year Hussey's Court extended from Centre Street west a
few feet beyond the corner of Westminster Street. The other
end of Hussey Street was Bunker's Court and it reached a point
a few rods distant from the west end of Hussey's Court. Later
the intervening space was crossed by a public right-of-way,
and the whole named Hussey Street, extending from Centre Street
to Liberty Street.

Grindell Gardner was one of the Trustees of the First Methodist
Church, usually called "The Tesser Meeting House", when the
land where it was erected was bought in 1799.

The house has been owned by only four families.

- C. Sources of Information:

1. Old Views: Old photograph in Old Houses of New England
by Knowlton Mixer, The Macmillan Co., 1927; old photograph

in Nantucket Lands and Land Owners by Henry Barnard Worth, Nantucket Historical Association Bulletin, Vol. 2, No. 1 & 7, 1904; old picture in Nantucket as a Health Resort by Robert Alexander Douglas-Lithgow, 1912; old photograph in Scrapbooks of Miss Grace Brown Gardner (microfilm in Nantucket Atheneum); old picture of Hussey Street in Nantucket: Old and New Centennial Edition by Henry Sherman Wyer, Nantucket: H. S. Wyer, 1895; modern drawing in Nantucket Sketchbook by Edwin Eberman, Nantucket: S. F. Baker, 1946.

Prepared by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin
Nantucket, Massachusetts
June, 1966

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared for the Historic American Buildings Survey project on Nantucket, Massachusetts. They are part of a continuing HABS comprehensive survey of the early architecture and urban design of Nantucket financed by a grant from the Nantucket Historical Trust.

The project was under the general supervision of James C. Massey, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Historical information was provided by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin of Nantucket, Massachusetts. Photographs are by Cortlandt V. D. Hubbard of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The material was edited for deposit in the Library of Congress by Mrs. Constance Werner Ramirez, August 1971.