

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
	76

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

Town Rehoboth

Address 26 Kelton Street

Historic Name Nathan Bowen House

Use: Present two-family residence

Original two-family residence

DESCRIPTION:

Date ca. 1785

Source architectural detail

Style Federal

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings see text

Major alterations (with dates) none

Moved no Date _____

Approx. acreage 2.02

Setting 75 feet from road behind

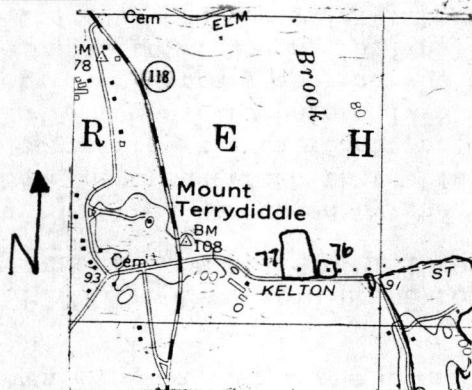
stone wall; rural context

PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



UTM: 19/314840/4633170

Recorded by Leslie C. Abernathy, III

Organization Rehoboth Historical Commission

Date April 1976; revised 1981

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The Nathan Bowen House is an outstanding and unusual example of well-developed Federal period architecture in Rehoboth. A two-and-one-half story five-bay center entrance structure, it is noteworthy both for the quality of its detail and excellent preservation overall. No additions, interior partition additions or removal, and such common ailments have affected this building. It was originally built as two residential units and has a full keeping room fireplace with bake oven on each floor, the downstairs being slightly larger. Entrance

(Continued)

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

The land in this area was owned by the Kelton and Bowen families in the 18th century. Some have suggested that this is a Kelton house, built to replace an earlier structure at a different but nearby location. Nathan Bowen owned this land and a house here before 1775. The cipher "Bowen Bottle, May 13, 1818" on the first floor buttry door may be an indication of early ownership. By 1850, it belonged to A. Bowen (Walling). It remained in the Bowen family until the end of the 19th century when L. Bowen, who also owned the house next door (#77) sold both properties. This house, by 1895, belonged to William H. Tasker with one small outbuilding to the east (Evert and Richards).

The Nathan Bowen House, one of Rehoboth's few pure Federal period houses, meets criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places individually and on the basis of present knowledge potentially meets criterion D.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

- Everts and Richards. Atlas of Bristol County, Massachusetts, 1895.
Walling, H. F. Map of Rehoboth, Mass., 1850.
Walling, H. F. Map of Rehoboth, Mass., 1871.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Rehoboth	Form No: 76
Property Name: Nathan Bowen House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Architectural Significance (Continued)

to a walk-in chamber between the flues is through a door left of the first floor keeping room fireplace. Both this door and the staircase shows distinct traces of graining. The stair string course is decorated with a saw cut curved design. Other architectural details, largely all in place, include mantels with plain doric pilasters, undecorated friezes, and projecting shelf ends and/or a projecting central frieze panel. The west front room on the first floor has the most elaborately detailed mantel and zoned fluting decorates the chairrail and cornice.

The attic windows retain original twelve over twelve sashes and glass, although the rest have been changed to six over six. According to the present owner, the south and east exterior walls are studded and the north and west plain. This may have been a function of thickening the walls, indicated also by relatively deep window insets in the south and east walls.

Exterior ornamentation is typically limited to the front facade. A line of dentils decorates the cornice. The doorway is a simple version of a Federal style of expression with a fanlight and pediment above and flanking doric pilasters.

Across Kelton Street to the south is a barn foundation of undetermined date and remnants of 20th century chicken coops. Both fell or were torn down ca. 1960. West of the house is a small fieldstone walled enclosure reputed to have been a local animal pound. A dump of considerable size (approximately fifteen by ten feet) and age is located approximately 50 yards behind the house at the edge of a swamp. 19th century glass bottles and iron items have occasionally been observed and there is a good potential that the dump is as old as the house. Under a protective layer of modern materials, it appears to be undisturbed.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 4

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Rehoboth Multiple Resource Area
State Massachusetts

Nomination/Type of Review		Date/Signature
1. Rehoboth Village Historic District	Substantive Review	Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 6/6/83</u> Attest _____
2. Allen, Elisha, House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 6/6/83</u> Attest _____
3. Anawan Club Caretaker's House	Combined	Keeper _____ Attest _____
4. Anawan Club Clubhouse AND CARETAKER'S HOUSE		for Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 6/6/83</u> Attest _____
5. Anawan Rock	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 6/6/83</u> Attest _____
6. Baker House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 6/6/83</u> Attest _____
7. Bliss, Abiah, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 6/6/83</u> Attest _____
8. Bliss, Daniel, Homestead	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 6/6/83</u> Attest _____
9. Bowen, Nathan, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 6/6/83</u> Attest _____
10. Bramble Hill	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 6/6/83</u> Attest _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Bowen, Nathan, House (Rehoboth MRA)
Bristol County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 4/25/83
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84
Date Due: 5/26/83 - 6/9/83
Action: ACCEPT 6/6/83
 RETURN
Entered in the National Register REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
 see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Area of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Rehobath

26 Keldon Street

Bower, Nathan, House

Rehobath MPA, Ma

II 20

Ino. 24

69.1733

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000292