

Historical Research on Leland Home by Mort Isaacson

As appearing in Waltham Historical Society publication "Waltham's Antebellum Mill Village Area", p. 26, distributed to Waltham City Council members in Jan. 2020:

24. 21 Newton Street, *The Leland Home, 1891, Colonial Revival*

The Leland Home for Women is the only existing historic structure on the west side of Newton Street, north of the river. The purchase of this land and the construction of the house in 1891 as a home for elderly women was made possible by a bequest from the estate of Mrs. Hannah C. Leland (*Daily Free Press*, January 6, 1892). The architect of the house was noted Waltham resident Henry W. Hartwell. At the time the present structure was built, an earlier house, which had existed on the site and had been occupied by the Horace Cate family (and by Eliza Ann Nickerson before that), was apparently moved onto Heard Street at the rear of the property and rotated 90 degrees. That earlier house was demolished sometime after 1974.

Background Research:

21 Newton Street

The Leland Home for Women is the only existing historic structure on the west side of Newton Street, north of the river. The purchase of this land and the construction of the house in 1891 as a home for elderly women was made possible by a bequest from the estate of Mrs. Hannah C. Leland. The architect of the house was noted Waltham resident Henry W. Hartwell. At the time the present structure was built, an earlier house existing on the site and formerly occupied by the Horace Cate family (and by Eliza Ann Nickerson before that) apparently was moved onto Heard Street at the rear of the property and rotated 90 degrees. That earlier house was demolished sometime after 1974.

Documentation:

- 1854: Map shows house labeled "Nickerson"
- 1865: Eliza A. Nickerson to Horace Cate, with buildings (MLR 953/299)
- 1875: Map shows house labeled "Cate"
- 1886: Map shows house labeled "Horace Cate"
- 1889: Lucy L. and Horace Cate to Home for Aged Women in Waltham (MLR 1940/261)
- 1892: *Daily Free Press*, January 6, 1892
- 1911: Map shows house at rear of property
- 1974: Map shows house at rear of property
- 1979: Handwritten note attached to MACRIS file by Elizabeth Castner, Waltham Public Library Archivist.