

Jonathan Eames House  
Framingham, Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-324

HABS  
MASS.  
9-FRAM  
6

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Massachusetts

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Frank C. Brown, District Officer  
76 Chestnut Street, Boston, Mass.

JONATHAN EAMES HOUSE  
(Old Red House)  
(Eames Red House)  
100 Prospect Street (moved from Union Avenue)  
Framingham  
Middlesex County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-324

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ADDENDUM TO  
JONATHAN EAMES HOUSE  
(Old Red House)  
Union Avenue (moved to Prospect Street)  
Framingham  
Middlesex County  
Massachusetts

WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JONATHAN EAMES HOUSE

*(Salt Box House)  
(Eames Red House)*

HABS No. MA-324

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MASS  
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Location: 100 Prospect Street, Framingham, Middlesex County, Massachusetts.

Significance: An eighteenth-century example of a New England frame house (salt-box) growing by accretion, and in step with successive generations of the Eames family, over a period of two hundred and forty-eight years.

Description: The Eames House is a frame structure with clapboarding. It stands two stories tall and is topped by a hipped roof. The house has two chimney stacks, each several feet forward of the current ridge line, one in the center of the building and one toward the south end. The east (front) facade has six windows, grouped in pairs, and an entrance way. This entry is off-set from the center of the structure, toward the north end of the house. The door (replacement) is made of four panels and sits within a classicizing door surround. Two fluted pilasters flank the door and rise from pedestals into an austere entablature. In the south facade is another entry; this door is made of six panels and its pediment (not drawn) extended into the second floor window sill. The windows are six over nine lights on the first floor and appear to be six over six lights at the second story.

Additions to the north end of the house were made in 1754 and to the south in 1810. Fires destroyed the stair hall and damaged parts of the 1721 structure. In 1969-75, the Eames house was moved and re-built on Prospect Street. At that time, the floor was lowered in one room, plywood sheathing was used, a cellar constructed, and white cedar shingles added to the roof. Angle cuts in the girts suggest that the southeast part of house was built as a "salt-box" house.

History: In 1721, Henry Eames raised his frame structure on Union Avenue; his son, Henry, added the north section in 1754. Another descendent, Abel, added the southern section to the house in 1810. The Eames family owned the house until 1969, when a developer purchased the property. Slated for demolition for an apartment building project, the Eames house fell under jurisdiction of the town's Selectmen, who in turn sold it to Stephen Avery Randall. Mr. Randall moved the house to the Prospect Street address in order to spare it from the bulldozer's path. The house now rests on a lot less than an acre in size, roughly fifty feet back from the street.

Sources: Historic Buildings of Massachusetts, edited by John C. Poppeliers. Scribner Historic Building Series. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976. Photographic catalogue of historic buildings, built primarily during the colonial and federal periods.

Inventory Form, Massachusetts Historical Commission, 1980.