

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community

Methuen

Property

Newins Home

Area(s) FormNo.

E

92



BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *see continuation sheet*

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Siting/Significance: The Nevins Home occupies a large lot on the west side of Broadway near the southern edge of the district. The area contains a mix of commercial, residential, industrial, and institutional uses, with buildings dating from the 19th and 20th-centuries. The home is set well back from the street, but its front and side elevations are clearly visible from Broadway; the rear elevation is partially visible from Ingalls Court which defines the north side of the lot. The Nevins Home is one of the many fine turn-of-the-century institutional buildings associated with the Searles, Tenney, and Nevins families that define so much of the special historic/architectural character of the district.

Defining Features: This important turn-of-the-century building displays many features of the Jacobethan Revival style including picturesque asymmetrical massing replete with cross-gables, chimneys and towers, brick walls with elaborate limestone trimmings, a steep slate roof, windows with multi-pane sash, and oriel or bay windows. The free mix of classical and medieval motifs is especially important.

CONT

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE *see continuation sheet*

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Historical Narrative: The Nevins Home was built on the site of the home of Charles Ingalls, one of Methuen's early hat manufacturers. Ingalls was born in Methuen in 1808, married Mary Kimball in 1832, and had several children including a son James born in 1839. Charles began in the hat business with Matthew Messer, and later worked with George Wilson, and Deacon Jonathan Merrill. About 1834, he took over Merrill's business and in 1864 took his son James into partnership. Ingalls' hat factory is shown on the 1846 map and a new, larger factory (built in 1877) can be seen on the 1884 map. The buildings were located west of Broadway on the south side of the Spicket, behind All Saints' Church (82 Broadway). Charles died in 1882 and James continued in the business for many years. Daniel W. Tenney, in a paper on early manufacturing given at the Methuen Historical Society, mentions Charles Ingalls, Mr. Wilson, and Ingalls' neighbor Asa Simonds.

In 1905 the Ingalls property on Broadway was acquired by the executors for the estate of Julie F. H. Nevins who died in 1904. Mrs. Nevins left \$100,000, plus an endowment, for construction of the Henry C. Nevins Home for Aged and Incurables, a memorial to her late husband. Ground breaking began in June 1905, and dedication of the new facility took place in July of the following year. The architect was Harris M. Stephenson of Boston and the contract for construction went to R. L. Fosberg and Son of Boston. Construction

CONT

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

Methuen Transcript: November 17, 1877, Charles Ingalls Obit January 11, 1882, September 30, 1898, June 30, 1905, August 18, 1905, February 2, 1906, July 13, 1906.

Preservation Advocate: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Vol. 19, No. 1, Winter 1992

CONT

- Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*
Listed 1/20/84

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Methuen

Property Address

100-110 Broadway

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Architectural Description (cont)

General Description: The Nevins Home rises 2 and 1/2 stories from an uncoursed fieldstone foundation to a steep parapeted slate gable roof punctuated with wall dormers, gables, paneled chimneys, and towers. Red brick walls are trimmed with limestone in a variety of classical and medieval motifs. In plan it consists of several stepped back wings that break up its vast size. Entries into the various wings are classically detailed with quoins, columns, and balustrades; a plaque over one entry bears the name of Henry Coffin Nevins, the building benefactor. A small building at the rear may have served as a mortuary. A new nursing home is located to the rear on a separate lot.

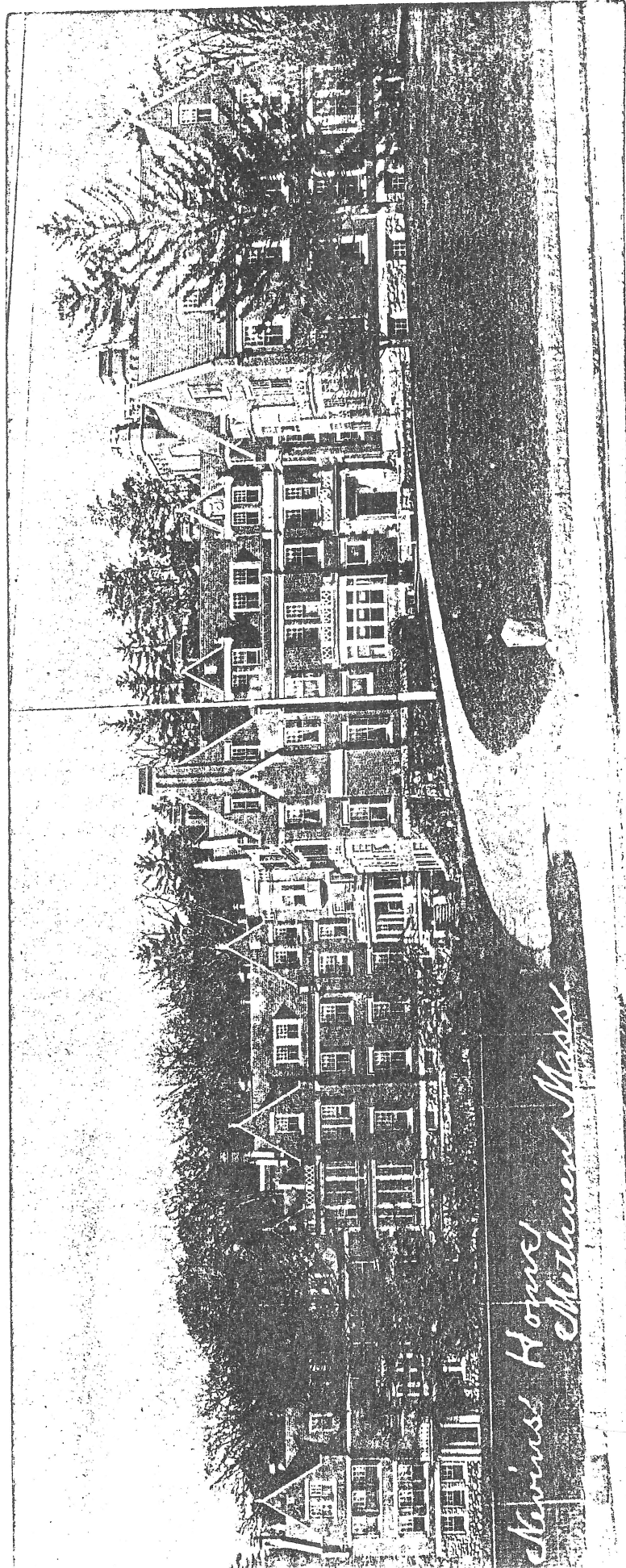
Historical Narrative (cont)

was supervised by the building committee consisting of Dr. George E. Woodbury and Lewis E. Barnes, superintendent of The Methuen Company. The Nevins Home remained in operation from 1906 until 1982. A modern nursing care facility was later constructed behind the original structure. Unable to develop an appropriate re-use plan, the Nevins Board of Directors contemplated demolition of the old building. Recent preservation efforts, undertaken jointly by the Nevins Home and the Town of Methuen, Tenney Preservation and the Massachusetts Historical Commission have resulted in the selection of a non-profit community development company to work in partnership with them to secure a HUD grant for supportive living. The proposal is still pending in the spring of 1992.

Bibliography (cont)

Methuen Historical Quarterly, Newsletter of Tenney Preservation Association, Inc., Methuen, Massachusetts Volume 1 winter 1992
Methuen Vital Records to 1849
Directories 1860, 1885/6, 1896, 1901/2
County and City Atlases 1872, 1884, 1896
Town of Methuen Assessor's Records
Methuen Historical Society: "Early Manufacturers in Methuen"

Methuen #92
100-110 Broadway
Newins Home



Newins Home
Methuen Mass.

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