

Cathy Flynn

From: Frances <karttu@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 4:17 PM
To: Cathy Flynn
Subject: 27 North Liberty

I recently learned something about the house on 27 North Liberty Street that I did not previously know. My great-great-great-grandfather, whaling captain Hezekiah Pinkham, who moved his family to 12 North Street (now Cliff Road) from a previously unspecified house on North Liberty Street, was at one time an owner of 27 N. Liberty. This intensifies my interest in the property beyond my previous historical interest.

As I have stated previously, there is early photographic documentation of the grouping of the buildings at 27 and 29 North Liberty Street in the Nantucket Historical Association's image archive, notably GPN2196, GPN2724, and GPN2725 from the 1800s. Image 2201 is of 27 North Liberty in the 1890s. Images 2202 and 2203 are also relevant. To change the configuration of the buildings by even a few feet would be to disrupt the historic record. As a Nantucket historian and an NHA Research Fellow, I am troubled by the proposal to do so.

The history of the building at 27 begins in 1798, when it was built by Seth Ray (next door) as a cooperage. After it was converted into a dwelling house after 1800, it went through a couple of sales, one of them to Nathaniel Barrett, who had previously been an early financial supporter of the fledgling US, and another to Captain Hezekiah Pinkham (who was interred with his wife Eunice (Barrett) Pinkham in nearby Old North Cemetery).

Unlike many Nantucket houses, the building at 27 N. Liberty still sits on its original foundation and has undergone few changes. I have been given to understand that this provides it with a level of protection under the federal designation of Nantucket Island as a whole as a National Historic Landmark that it will lose if the house is moved even partially off its original foundation.

Please take this into consideration as you proceed.

Frances Karttunen