

1444
AUG 21 1989

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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

NATIONAL REGISTER

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

P	F129-F134, F137-F149
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WALTHAM, MA MRA

Town Waltham, MA

Name of Area (if any) Piety Corner

Historic District

Present Use Residential/Institutional

General Date or Period 1820-1915

General Condition Good

Acreage 65.6 acres / 2,857,951 sq.ft.

Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Waltham Historical Comm.

Date August 1986

revised by C. Jenkins 2/88



Sketch Map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient).

(See attached map)

UTM REFERENCE A 19 | 315 920 | 4695510
B 19 | 315 580 | 4695400
C 19 | 315 520 | 4694920
D 19 | 315 870 | 4694850
 USGS QUADRANGLE LEXINGTON
 SCALE 1:25,000

RESOURCE	COUNT
BUILDINGS	28C 4 NC
STRUCTURES	5C 11 NC
TOTAL	33c 15 NC

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Piety Corner Historic District is composed of a group of residences that date from the early nineteenth to the early twentieth century. These residences are of a variety of architectural styles and many are among the best examples of their styles in the city. In addition, some are located on or near the sites of First or Second Period houses that are no longer standing. The area was one of the first in Waltham to be settled in the seventeenth century and remained a focus of political and intellectual life until the early nineteenth century. Later in the nineteenth century it was the center of the Swedenborgian movement in Waltham and in the early 20th century it was an area where many prominent citizens lived. The District thus meets criteria A, and C and Exception A of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

Piety Corner refers to the area around the present intersection of Lexington and Bacon streets and Totten Pond Road. Historically, Piety Corner included all the land from Farnsworth Street on the south to College Farm Road on the north and from the intersection of Lyman and Beaver streets on the east to the intersection of Winter Street and Pond End School Lane on the west (Sanderson 1927:1). This district encompasses a substantially smaller area, with boundaries drawn to include a cohesive group of 19th and early 20th century houses (c1819-c1910s) designed in the Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Mansard, Carpenter Gothic, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles; a small number of well designed institutional buildings highlight the area. The boundaries are specifically drawn to exclude more recent buildings on all sides. This district constitutes the largest grouping of well preserved historic buildings in the city.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

Piety Corner was originally called "Hosier's Corner" after a seventeenth century owner of the lot at the corner of Lexington and Lincoln streets. Its present name is a reference to the many church deacons who lived in the vicinity during the eighteenth century. At that time the actual corner was not the same as at present, for the road systems were different. Lexington Street did not exist south of Chapel Hill School(F139); instead, Beaver Street was the principal route coming up from Main Street, then the Great Country Road. Beaver joined Lexington Street somewhat north of their present intersection, and the main route west then ran along Lexington to Lincoln Street and followed Lincoln and Winter streets to Weston. The Piety Corner area was served by a circular route composed of Lincoln Street, College Farm Road, and Lexington Street.

Although the land in this area was divided up and granted as early as 1636, settlement in the Piety Corner area did not occur until the late seventeenth century when two or three houses were built (Sanderson 1927:3-5). By 1721 there were ten houses in the area, one of which, the William Hagar House at 51 Sanders Lane, is still standing.(#135) Piety Corner residents were important in the establishment of a separate meeting house at the intersection of Beaver and Lyman streets in 1721 (Sanderson 1927:5) and were certainly instrumental in the location of the first schoolhouse in the West Precinct, as Waltham was

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Armstrong, Thomas H.
1921 The Making of Lexington Street in Waltham. Paper presented to Waltham Historical Society.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Waltham, MA	Form No: F
Property Name: Piety Corner H.D.	

AUG 21 1980

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

Although the Piety Corner area has been settled since the late seventeenth century, the existing houses, with the exception of one not included in the District (see 51 Sanders Lane form), date from the early nineteenth century. The District has several fine examples of Federal farmhouses: the Sanderson-Bemis house at 380 Lexington Street (ca.1819-1829, #F145), with its retardataire south facade containing Georgian elements, and the Jonas Clark farmhouse at 399 Lexington Street (1825, #F148), still in a rural setting much as it was in the nineteenth century.

It is indicative of the development of the Piety Corner area that it has no Greek Revival houses, for there was very little settlement in the area during the 1830s and 40s. The next surge of building was tied to the growth of the Waltham Swedenborgian congregation in the middle of the century. In the early 1850s, Benjamin Worcester, who became the leader of the congregation, settled in Waltham and built the imposing Italianate residence at 28 Worcester Lane (1853, #F134). This house, which has some Greek Revival elements, is strikingly similar to and may be a copy of the house built by Francis Blanchard, a member of the Swedenborgian congregation, at 428 Main Street (1850-1854, #E71). (The only other building in the District that dates to the 1850s, the Italianate Pond End School, now the Piety Corner Club at 2 Worcester Lane, was built in 1850 and moved to this site in 1914.)

In 1860, the locus of the Waltham Swedenborgian congregation at Piety Corner was confirmed by the building of its Chapel on Lexington Street (#F144); this English Country Gothic style church remains almost unchanged in appearance since it was rebuilt in 1870 after a fire. The Swedenborgians also started a school in the Piety Corner area; originally located in the Church, the Waltham New Church School moved to its own buildings in 1864. Both the cross-shaped panel brick school building (327 Lexington Street, #F140) and the small dormitory cottage (#F139) that were built in 1864 have mansard roofs, apparently the first appearance of this style in Waltham and one that influenced other contemporary buildings in the Piety Corner area. In January 1864 the John Clark homestead at 362 Lexington Street had burned, and when it was rebuilt it was made into a high-style Italianate with a mansard roof (1864, #F143). The Calvin Clark house at 340 Lexington Street (#F142), which was also built in 1864, also has a mansard roof though is a much more vernacular Italianate house. The only other mansard in the District, the William P. Childs house at 396 Lexington (#F147), was built in 1875 and is a much more conventional mansard similar to many others built in Waltham at about the same time.

The Piety Corner Historic District has an unusual collection of houses that are what might be termed nineteenth century eclectic in style. Perhaps foremost among these is the "Octagon" at 361 Bacon Street (#F132), a building that was erected sometime before 1875 and was originally an octagon that was later truncated to its present odd shape. The house is all the more unusual in that in the late 1880s it was used as a poultry house on the first floor and children's playroom on the second. The Piety Corner District also has two of the very few, albeit very late, examples of Carpenter Gothic in the city, but the fact that these two houses are now almost across the street from each other is sheer coincidence. The house at 326 Bacon Street (#F130) was built on that site sometime between 1858 and 1875, but the house with the barge boards at 345 Bacon Street (#F131) was actually built in 1877 on Pond Street and moved to its present site in the 1950s.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Waltham, MA	Form No: F
Property Name: Piety Corner H.D.	

AUG 21 1988

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.
ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

The Piety Corner District has several examples of Queen Anne style houses: the Sherman Hoar house at 326 Lexington Street (1888, #F138) with its cross-gabled gambrel roofs and a conical-roofed gazebo and the Charles Baird house at 395 Lexington Street (1891, #F146) with a lunette in the front gable and a centered gable barn. These houses were built by the well-to-do as single-family residences as were the large, elaborate Colonial Revivals constructed at the turn of the century: the Murray Clement house at 336 Lexington Street (1902, #F141) with a hipped roof and bowed front wall, the Charles A. Whitney house at 306 Lexington Street (ca. 1903, #F137) with a cross-gabled gambrel roof and massive fieldstone foundation, and the somewhat later William B. Loughton house at 291 Bacon Street (ca. 1911, #F129) with a gambrel roof and shed dormers. The only Georgian Revival house in the Piety Corner Historic District is the Hoyt L. Conary house at 409 Lexington Street (ca. 1911-1915, #F149); it is notable for its monumental two-story portico on the rear facade.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Waltham, MA	Form No: F
Property Name: Piety Corner H.D.	

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

then called, on the northwest corner of Bacon Street and Worcester Lane in 1733 (Sanderson 1919:33-34). Bacon Street developed as "the way to the schoolhouse" (Sanderson 1927:12; Warren 1890:707). In the later eighteenth century, additional houses were built, many by members of families already established in the Piety Corner area, and Lexington Street was extended to Trapelo Road.

In the early nineteenth century the establishment of the Boston Manufacturing Company in 1814 shifted the focus of settlement away from the Piety Corner area and towards the present city center, a change reflected in the extension of Lexington Street to Main Street in the 1830s. The development that perhaps had the most significant long-term implications for the Piety Corner area was the establishment ca. 1820 of a Swedenborgian congregation. After meeting for many years in the parlor of the John Clark house (see 362 Lexington Street; F134), in 1860 the congregation built a chapel, now the Covenant Congregational Church at 379 Lexington Street (rebuilt in 1870), and a school, now the Chapel Hill School; both these institutions attracted more residents to the area and established it as a residential neighborhood. The social impact of the congregation on the area was formalized in 1886 with the formation of the Piety Corner Club, originally a social club for Church members and later, after the requirement of Church membership was dropped in 1903, the focus of many neighborhood activities. (F133)

By the turn of the twentieth century, Piety Corner was considered a desirable residential area for the well-to-do, a view reflected in the large Colonial Revival houses built at that time. Today Piety Corner remains an affluent residential area though, with the laying out and construction of Totten Pond Road in 1960 between the houses at 380 and 396 Lexington Street, the area has continual heavy traffic.

AUG 21 1960

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Waltham, MA	Form No: F
Property Name: Piety Corner H.D.	

AUG 21

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY (cont'd)

Sanderson, Edmund L.

- 1919 Piety Corner and Pond End Schools: History and Description.
Publication No. 1. Waltham Historical Society.
- 1927 The Story of Piety Corner. Typescript. Waltham Public Library.
- 1929 Piety Corner and Its Antecedents. In History of Piety Corner.
Waltham Public Library.
- 1936 Waltham as a Precinct of Watertown and as a Town: 1630-1884.
Publication No. 5, Waltham Historical Society.

Walker, Lenore Mullen

- n.d. Piety Corner and the New Church. Typescript. Charles River Museum
of Industry.

Warren, Nathan

- 1890 Waltham. In History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts. ed. by
D. Hamilton Hurd. Vol. 3. Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Co.

Worcester, Benjamin

- 1910 Early History of the Waltham New Church School. n.p. Copy at
Waltham Public Library.

WALTHAM, MA MRA

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

PIETY CORNER HISTORIC DISTRICT

<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Assessor's #</u>	<u>Square Feet</u>	<u>Historic Name/Inventory #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Status</u>
291 Bacon Street	42-9-10	80,000	William B. Loughton Hse./F129 garage	c1911	Colonial Rev.	C/C3
305 Bacon Street	42-9-11	90,735	n/a garage	c1910s	Colonial Rev.	C/C
315 Bacon Street	42-9-12	33,362	n/a garage	c1910s	Colonial Rev.	C/NC
325 Bacon Street	42-9-13	65,000	n/a	c1890s	Shingle Style	C
326 Bacon Street	41-13-8	11,600	George F. Frost Hse./F130 garage	c1860	Carpenter Gothic	C/NC
339 Bacon Street	42-9-14	9,340	Walker Stable	c1880s	Vernacular	C
345 Bacon Street	42-9-15	12,240	Abby E. Rutter Hse./F131	c1877	Carpenter Gothic	C
355 Bacon Street	42-9-16	11,330	n/a	c1960s	Split level	NC
361 Bacon Street	42-9-17	6,040	"The Octagon"	pre-1875	Octagon (alt.)	C
369 Bacon Street	42-9-1	14,150	Cutler Stable	c1890s	Queen Anne	C
306 Lexington St.	42-9-7	55,907	Charles A. Whitney Hse./F137	1902	Colonial Revival	C
326 Lexington St.	42-9-6	41,280	Sherman Hoar Hse./F138 garage, shed	1888	Queen Anne	C/NC/NC
336 Lexington St.	42-9-5	26,375	Murray Clement Hse./F141 garage	1900	Colonial Rev.	C/C
348 Lexington St.	42-9-4	34,610	Calvin Clark Hse./F142 shed	1864	Italianate	C/NC
360 Lexington St.	42-9-3	18,400	n/a garage	1952	Ranch	NC/NC
362 Lexington St.	42-9-2	17,860	Nathan Hobart Hse./F143 garage	1864	Mansard	C/NC
327 Lexington St.	42-7-14	735,990	New Church Institute of Education New Church School/F139 New Church Cottage/F140 South Hall/A storage/B North Hall/C Student Center/D House/E	1864 1864 1903 c1950s 1904 c1987 c1950s	Mansard Mansard Colonial Rev. Ranch Colonial Rev. Contemporary Ranch	C C C NC C NC NC
340 Lexington St.	48-A-16	32,265	Calvin Clark House	1864	Italianate	C

AUG 21 1989

WALTHAM, MA MRA

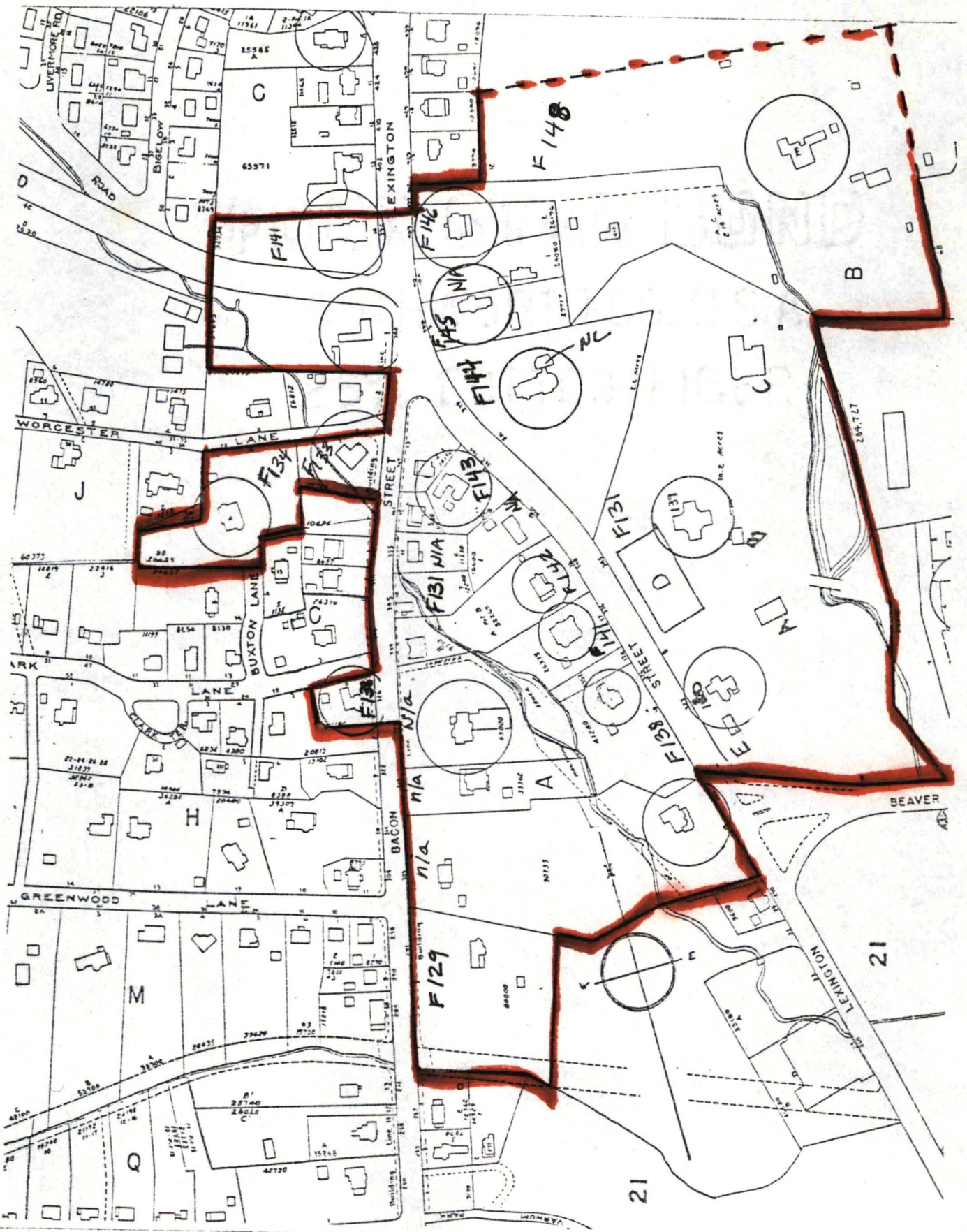
DISTRICT DATA SHEET

PIETY CORNER HISTORIC DISTRICT (2)

<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Assessor's #</u>	<u>Square Feet</u>	<u>Historic Name/Inventory #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Status</u>
379 Lexington St.	42-7-15	104,278	New Jerusalem Chapel/F144	1860/1870	English Country Gothic	C
380 Lexington St.	42-5-1	54,645	Sanderson-Bemis Hse./F145 barn	1819-29	Federal	C/C
395 Lexington St.	42-7-16	14,100	Charles Baird Hse./F146 stable	1891	Queen Anne	C/C
396 Lexington St.	42-4-11	17,821	William P. Childs Hse./F147	1875	Mansard	C
399 Lexington St.	42-7-3	1,200,078	Jonas Clark Farmhouse/F148 1 garage 8 cabins 7 sheds 4 pools	1825	Federal	C NC NC NC NC NC
401 Lexington St.	42-7-17	25,330	n/a	1955	Ranch	NC NC
409 Lexington St.	42-7-18	13,270	Hoyt L. Conary Hse./F149	1911-15	Colonial Rev.	C
417 Lexington St.	42-7-19	94,961	Vacant	n/a	n/a	C
2 Worcester Lane	42-6-1	18,760	Pond End School/F133	1850	Italianate	C
28 Worcester Lane	42-9-10	50,489	Benjamin Worcester House/F134	1853	Italianate	C

RESOURCE COUNT:	Buildings	28 C	4 NC	32 total
	Structures	5 C	11 NC	16 total
	Total	33 C	15 NC	48 total resources

TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE: 2,857,951 sq.ft. or 65.6 acres



1970 Atlas, City of Waltham
 Compiled by the Waltham
 Engineering Division
 Scale: 1 inch = 140 feet

Waltham, Massachusetts MRA
 Piety Corner H.D.
 23-H 48-A, B 49-J, C

Piety Corner Historic District, Waltham (Middlesex Co.), MA



1. New Jerusalem Chapel, 379 Lexington St., #F144



2. Pond End School / Piety Corner Club, 2 Worcester Ln, #F133



3. Benjamin Worcester House, 28 Worcester Ln, #F134



4. Sherman Hoar House, 326 Lexington St, #F138

Piety Corner Historic District, Waltham (Middlesex Co.), MA



5. Sanderson-Bemis House, 380 Lexington St., #F145



6. Nathan Hobart House, 362 Lexington St., #F143



7. Jonas Clark Farmhouse, 399 Lexington St., #F148

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 21 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Waltham MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
61. Mount Feaks Cemetery <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	<i>for</i> Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
<i>5012</i> 62. Mt. Prospect School for Boys <i>Substantive Review</i>	<i>for</i> Keeper <u>Beth L. Savage 3/9/90</u> Attest _____
63. Murray, Robert, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	<i>for</i> Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
<i>5012</i> 64. Newton Street Bridge <i>Substantive Review</i>	<i>for</i> Keeper <u>Beth L. Savage 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
65. North Lexington Street Historic District <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	<i>for</i> Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
66. O'Hara Waltham Dial Company <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	<i>for</i> Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
67. Olcott, John E., House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	<i>for</i> Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
68. Oxford, The <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	<i>for</i> Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
69. Peck, John M., House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	<i>for</i> Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
<i>5012</i> 70. Piety Corner Historic District <i>Substantive Review</i>	<i>for</i> Keeper <u>Beth L. Savage 3/9/90</u> Attest _____