

PH0281646

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 5 1975

DATE ENTERED JAN 1 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Dr. Henry Jacob Bigelow House

AND/OR COMMON

Peabody School Extension

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 742 Dedham Street/474 Brookline Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Newton (Village of Oak Hill)

VICINITY OF

4th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Massachusetts

025

Middlesex

017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

☒ DISTRICT☒ PUBLIC☐ OCCUPIED☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ BUILDING(S)☐ PRIVATE☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ STRUCTURE☐ BOTH☐ WORK IN PROGRESS☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ SITE**PUBLIC ACQUISITION****ACCESSIBLE**☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ OBJECT☐ IN PROCESS☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ BEING CONSIDERED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ NO☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Newton/ New England Peabody Home for Crippled Children

STREET & NUMBER

1000 Commonwealth Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Newton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02161

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

208 Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge,

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1975

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dr. Henry Jacob Bigelow House stands on one of Newton's highest hills (Oak Hill) and commands a magnificent view of the surrounding towns. The house was designed in 1886 and built a year later, one of the last works of architect Henry Hobson Richardson. Its exterior remains virtually unchanged from its original appearance, except for the evidence of deterioration.

The Bigelow House is a two-story shingle style house built around a courtyard. The long east elevation contains the main entrance to the courtyard and has irregularly spaced fenestration, sometimes with paired windows of 6 over 6 lights, or with larger openings of 8 over 8 and smaller ones of 3 over 3. Interrupting the plane of the east elevation is a second-story gabled section which projects from the facade. This main section of the house has a ridge roof and two brick chimneys.

The steep ridge roof of the southern section of the house runs perpendicular to that of the east side. This section contains a chimney and next to it a level area in the roof which was once a lookout. The variety in fenestration is again shown in the use of 4 over 4 lights. A small turret, projecting from the second story of the southwest corner, provides a bit of whimsy that is unusual for the house.

The rear of the house which forms the west side of the courtyard is accented by a polygonal lantern with a cone-shaped roof. This segment of the house was used as a kitchen and servants' quarters.

To the north is the carriage house, again with its ridge roof running perpendicular to that of the central section.

Except in the carriage house, the second story of the house slightly overhangs the first floor. This effect is emphasized by a subtle flaring out of the shingles on the second floor.

The interior of the Bigelow House has been considerably altered for use as dormitory and classroom space by the Peabody School (New England Peabody Home for Crippled Children). In 1963 the house was leased to the City of Newton who allowed the property to fall into a state of disrepair. More recently the city has agreed in the future to provide better maintenance and to conduct feasibility studies for housing and other alternative uses.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☒ OTHER (SPECIFY) medicine
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Designed 1886; built 1887 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry Hobson Richardson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dr. Henry Jacob Bigelow House, sitting high on Oak Hill in Newton, is among the last designs (January 1886) of Henry Hobson Richardson. Richardson was one of the foremost architects of his day and is known both for his Romanesque Revival and shingle style houses. The Bigelow House, although not one of Richardson's most outstanding shingle houses, is nevertheless the only shingle residence by the master in Newton. Its beautiful site on a wooded hill sets it apart from the housing developments on the nearest streets and calls to mind the period when the area consisted exclusively of farms and woodland.

Dr. Henry Jacob Bigelow, for whom the house was built, was an eminent surgeon in the mid-19th century. The Bigelow family had a long history in Massachusetts, and members of the family contributed greatly to cultural and academic affairs in the Commonwealth. Jacob Bigelow, Henry's father, was a prominent Boston physician and is also known for his founding of Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Like his father, Henry attended Harvard Medical School and later served as a professor there and as a surgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital. He was profoundly interested in the study of anaesthesia, and in 1846 performed the first painless operation at Massachusetts General with Dr. W. T. G. Morton administering sulfuric-ether to Gilbert Abbott. Bigelow later published the first account of the use of ether in a surgical operation. He also made important contributions in the development of sophisticated surgery involving the correction of dislocated hips and devised an instrument to crush stones in the bladder and a means to remove the fragments. His work was influential on both sides of the Atlantic. Bigelow married Susan Sturgis whose family were prominent Boston merchants. Through their connections with shipping, the Bigelows were able to amass a fine collection of Chinese art, much of which is now at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hitchcock, Henry-Russell. The Architecture of H. H. Richardson and His Times.
Cambridge: MIT Press, 1970.
Fogg Art Museum. Henry Hobson Richardson and His Office. Cambridge: Harvard
College, 1974.
Dictionary of American Biography, Vols. I & II. "Bigelow, Henry Jacob,"
New York: Scribners, 1946.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 319740 4685480
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Judy D. Dobbs, National Register Editor and Jean Husher, Newton Historical Commission

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Massachusetts Historical Commission

October 23, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

294 Washington Street

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston

Massachusetts 02108

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elizabeth Reed Amadon

TITLE Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission DATE Oct. 24, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 11/1/96

ATTEST:

Ronald M. Rosenberg

DATE 12/31/75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property

Bigelow, Dr. Henry Jacob, House

State

Mass.

Working Number

11.5.75.1981

Middlesex

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos

3

Maps

1

OK pl
11.5.75Significant for architecture and for
association with ^{important} figure in medicine.

HISTORIAN

Accept

E. Smith

12-16-75

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

One of Richardson's best works -

ACCEPT
H. J. Smith
12/16/75

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Col
12.30.75Acting
BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Acting
R. G. Smith
12/31/75

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

3-2-76

Send-back

Re-submit

Entered

JAN 1 1976

INT:2106-74



Photo 2

Peabody School - extension

" Dr. Henry J. Bigelow Estate

742 Dedham St / 474 Brookline St.

PRO

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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RECEIVED NOV 5 1975

DATE ENTERED

JAN 1

1976

for city

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Dr. Henry Jacob Bigelow House

AND/OR COMMON

Peabody School Extension

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Newton

VICINITY OF

COUNTY Middlesex

STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Alan S. Barkin

DATE OF PHOTO 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT 540 Parker Street, Newton Centre, Mass.

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

View of house from northeast

PHOTO NO. 1

theast

NPS

Titl

Loc.



Peabody School - extension

"Dr. Henry J. Bigelow Estate"

ine St.

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Dr. Henry Jacob Bigelow House

AND/OR COMMON Peabody School Extension

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Newton VICINITY OF COUNTY Middlesex STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Alan S. Barkin DATE OF PHOTO 1974
NEGATIVE FILED AT 540 Parker Street, Newton Centre, Mass.

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 2

West elevation of ell and carriage house

Flint

for city

photo

carriage house



Peabody School - extension
"Dr. Henry J. Bigelow Estate"

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

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CITY, TOWN Newton

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STATE MA

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PHOTO NO 3

Southwest view

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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RECEIVED NOV 5 1975

DATE ENTERED JAN 1 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC Dr. Henry Jacob Bigelow House

AND/OR COMMON

Peabod School Extension

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Newton

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Middlesex

STATE MA

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE USGS, Newton Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24000

DATE 1970

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

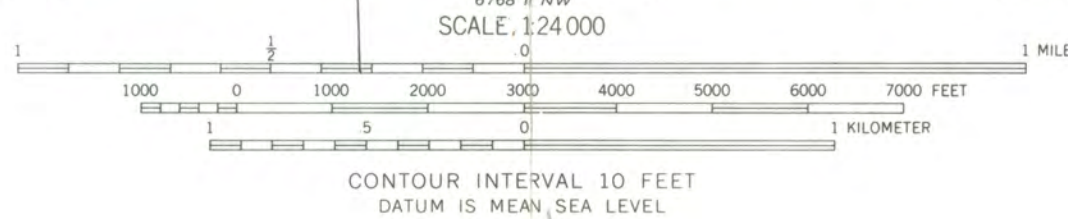
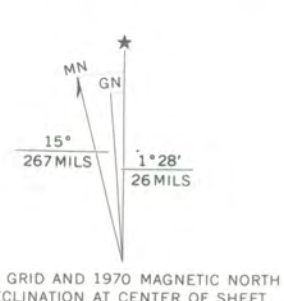
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



Newton: Dr. Henry Jacob
Bigelow House

UTM Reference:
19/319740/4685480

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1939. Topography by planimetric surveys 1943.
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Interstate Route
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
U. S. Route
State Route

NEWTON, MASS.
N4215-W7107.5/7.5

1970

AMS 6768 I SW-SERIES 1814



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered 2/11/76

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Angle Tree Stone	Worfolk and Bristol Counties
Red Brick School	Franklin Worfolk County
Higelow, Dr. Henry Jacob, House	Worcester (Village of Oak Hill) Worcester County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Vincent M. Carlini
Hon. Joseph D. Dery
Hon. Robert F. Drinan

Chief Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. William D. Graham
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

PR MMott/je 1/20/76

INT: 2950-75

Peabody School accepted as National Historic site

The Peabody School Extension, 742 Dedham St., Oak Hill, has been accepted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Also known as the Dr. Henry Jacob Bigelow House, it was nominated by Massachusetts Historical Commission. State Secretary Paul H. Guzzi, chairman of the commission, was

informed of the acceptance by Gary Everhardt, director of the National Park Service in the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The Peabody School Extension is among the last designs (January 1886) of famed architect Henry Hobson Richardson. He is known both for his Romanesque Revival and shingle style houses. Although the house

on Oak Hill is not one of his most outstanding shingle houses, it is, nevertheless, the only shingle residence by the master in Newton. Its beautiful site on a wooded hill sets it apart from the housing developments on the nearest street and calls to mind the period when the area consisted exclusively of farms and woodland.

The house was built for Dr. Henry Jacob Bigelow, an eminent surgeon in the mid-19th century. The Bigelow family had a long history in Massachusetts, and members of the family contributed greatly to cultural and academic affairs in the Commonwealth.

Jacob Bigelow, Henry's father, was a prominent Boston physician and is also known for his founding of Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge.

Like his father, Henry attended Harvard Medical School and later served as a professor there and as a surgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital. He was profoundly interested in the study of anaesthesia, and in 1846 performed the first painless operation at Massachusetts General Hospital with Dr. W.T.G. Morton administering sulfuric ether to Gilbert Abbott.

Dr. Bigelow later published the first account of the use of ether in a surgical operation. He also made important contributions in the development of sophisticated surgery involving the correction of dislocated hips and devised an instrument to crush stones in the bladder and a means to remove the fragments.

The work of Dr. Bigelow was influential on both sides of the Atlantic. He married Susan Sturgis whose family members were prominent Boston merchants. Through their connections with shipping, the Bigelows were able to amass a fine collection of Christian art, much of which is now at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

The exterior of the two-story shingle style house built in 1886 remains virtually unchanged from its original appearance, except for evidence of deterioration.

The interior has been considerably altered for use as a dormitory and classroom space by the Peabody School (New England Peabody Home for Orphaned Children).

In 1983, the house was listed in the city of Newton.

Waltham
Tribune
2/76

**Advisory
Council On
Historic
Preservation**

Middlesex Co. Mass

1522 K Street NW.
Washington D.C.
20005

DEC 7 1978

Mr. Charles J. Thomas
Community Development Coordinator
City of Newton
City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston Centre, Massachusetts 02159

Dear Mr. Thomas:

On December 11, 1978, the Council received a determination from the City of Newton that the purchase and restoration of the Dr. Henry Jacob Bigelow House, Newton, Massachusetts, would not adversely affect that National Register property. The Executive Director does not object to your determination and commends the city on its preservation efforts.

A copy of your determination of no adverse effect, along with supporting documentation and this concurrence, should be included in any assessment or statement prepared for this undertaking in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and should be kept in your records as evidence of your compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f, as amended, 97 Stat. 1725).

Your continued cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Myra F. Harrison
Assistant Director
Office of Review and Compliance