

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 16 1979

DATE ENTERED OCT 25 1979

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

Winslow-Haskell Mansion

AND/OR COMMON

The Castle

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

53 Vista Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Newton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Middlesex

CODE

017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☒ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Lasell Junior College

STREET & NUMBER

1844 Commonwealth Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Newton

VICINITY OF

STATE
Massachusetts**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

40 Thorndike Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE
Massachusetts**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1978

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE
Massachusetts

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

—EXCELLENT

—GOOD

☒ FAIR

—DETERIORATED

—RUINS

—UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

—UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED 1882

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

—MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Winslow-Haskell Mansion occupies a large wooded lot on Vista Hill in the Auburndale section of Newton. It is approached by a winding carriage drive. Designed in 1870, this 2½ story house provides an excellent example of High Victorian Gothic design. Its complex plan, wall massing and roof line all combine to create the picturesque effect associated with this style. It is constructed of a coarse buff colored brick with darker brick used for trim. The steep roof, characterized by jerkin-headed gables, is sheathed with polychromatic, patterned slate. Windows are pointed arches and of varying sizes.

The house is basically narrow in plan with the main entrance located on the long, south elevation. This elevation consists of two jerkin headed end pavilions and a central section interrupted by a tower with pyramidal roof, a bow window and several dormers with decorative verge boards. The entrance, approached by a flight of five steps, is located in the tower and is protected by a steep roofed portico. Its double door is carved with trefoils. The tower contains a single window and its roof is topped by a weathervane. The west pavillion has a three-sided bay at its first story and a single window in the second story. The east pavillion has two long narrow windows on the first floor, a single window with a balcony on the second floor and a small window in the gable.

The most prominent feature of the east elevation is a three sided tower which was apparently added in 1882 although it continues the Gothic elements of the original design. Windows occupy two sides of the tower at the first floor level while a secondary entry, approach by a flight of five wooden steps, occupies the side to the right. Windows are located in all three sides of the second story level which is separated from the first by four rows of corbeling. The third story is a recessed porch with turned posts and a low balustrade pierced with trefoils. A central door with flanking windows leads into the house. A steep six sided roof completes the tower.

The west elevation consists of a jerkin headed cross gable section at its north end and a main block whose roof extends down to a one story porch. Two large dormers provide light for the second story. A flat roofed one story porch extends across the north elevation. Jerkin-headed and gable roof dormers light the second story.

Now vacant and boarded, the house is beginning to deteriorate and has lost some of its original features such as porch balusters, roof brackets and roofline cresting. Most interior paneling, doors and mantels remain intact.

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)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES: 1870, 1882

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Winslow-Haskell Mansion possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship and is significant for the quality of its architectural design and for its associations with important local persons, particularly Edwin Bradbury Haskell, owner and editor of a major Boston paper. The complex massing of the house along with its hilltop site make it a particularly fine example of the picturesque movement which was so important in the development of Newton. Its High Victorian Gothic design is expressed in its polychromatic slate roof, pointed window openings, carved vergeboards, and trefoils and quatrafoils.

Built in 1870 for Ezra D. Winslow, this house represents the apex of the development of Victorian domestic architecture in Auburndale which is one of Newton's earliest railroad villages. The Boston and Albany Railroad passed through Newton in 1834 and by the early 1840's much of the former farm land had been bought by speculators and sold to Bostonians who were discovering the possibility of commuting from fine country homes to jobs in the city. By the time the Winslow-Haskell Mansion was built, much of Auburndale was already developed with many fine examples of Victorian styles.

Only two years after its construction, the house was sold to Edwin Bradbury Haskell, owner and editor of the Boston Herald, which under the name of the Boston Herald American, is still one of Boston's two major newspapers. Haskell owned and edited the paper from 1865 to 1887 and remained a director of the Boston Herald Company until his death in 1907.

During his lifetime he worked in almost every aspect of newspaper publishing beginning as an apprentice printer at 16 for the Portland (Me.) Advertiser. At 17, he became a compositor in New Orleans, and a year later for the Saturday Evening Gazette in Boston. At 20, he became a reporter for The Boston Herald in 1865, and continued as its editor for the next 22 years. Two partners sold out their interest a few years later, the remaining then continuing together until 1887, when the paper was incorporated.

As the editor of The Boston Herald, Haskell strongly supported universal suffrage, local self-government, honest currency, civil service reform and low tariff with free trade as an ultimate goal. Under his leadership, the Herald became one of the most enterprising newspapers in the country, certainly the leading journal in New England, with a wide circulation and powerful influence.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hurd, The History of Middlesex County, Vol. III, Philadelphia, 1890; p. 169-171.
The Newton Circuit, "Obituaries", March 29, 1907.
Sweetser, King's Handbook of Newton, Boston, 1889.
Brimblecom, Newton, Garden City of the Commonwealth, 1902.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 162,990 sq. ft.

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 314960 4689760
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please refer to the attached assessor's map. Page 26, section 43, block 36, lot 5.

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

Elsie M. Husher, Chairman

Candace Jenkins, National Register Coordinator with Newton Historical Commission

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Massachusetts Historical Commission

July 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

294 Washington Street

(617) 727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston

Massachusetts

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

Patricia W. Wadsworth

8/9/79

DATE

TITLE

Executive Director, Mass. Historical Commission

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Carol Shull

DATE

10-25-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Patricia W. Wadsworth*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10/19/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

OCT 25 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Haskell invested heavily in several other well known newspapers in the mid-West: Minneapolis Journal, Minneapolis Tribune and the St. Joseph News.

Locally, Haskell was the president of the Board of Trustees of the Newton Free Library for 17 years, president of the Newton Cemetery Corp. and president of the Newton Jersey Stock Club. In addition, he was appointed Metropolitan Park Commissioner by Governor Greenhalge in 1895, and in this position sought the ways to beautify the banks of the Charles River.

Property Winslow-Haskell Mansion (~~The Castle~~)

State MA (Middlesex) Working Number 8.16.79.1971

TECHNICAL

Photos 4

Maps 2

CONTROL

OK pl
8.16.79

Significant for its associations with Edwin Haskell who was an important newspaper editor. House is also significant architecturally.

HISTORIAN

Accept
Lightner
10-17-79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
10/19/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

12.4.79

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered OCT 25 1979



Newton
Winslow-Haskell Mansion
Steve Rosenthal 1979
Newton Historical Commission
Middlesex County, Massachusetts
Photo #1 of 4
Southeast corner

AUG 16 1979

POC
OCT 25 1979

Jan 1979

Auburndale, Newton, Mass

①



Newton
Winslow-Haskell Mansion
Steve Rosenthal 1979
Newton Historical Commission

Middlesex County, Massachusetts

Photo #2 *of 4*
East elevation

AUG 16 1979

DOE
OCT 25 1979

Jan 1979

②

Newton, Mass



Jan 1979

(5)

Newton
Winslow-Haskell Mansion
Steve Rosenthal 1979
Newton Historical Commission

Middlesex County, Massachusetts

Photo #3/4
Northwest corner

AUG 16 1979

POC
OCT 25 1979

(straight north view cannot be photographed
because of trees & steep drop of land)



Jan 1979

Newton

Winslow-Haskell Mansion

Steve Rosenthal 1979

Newton Historical Commission

Middlesex County, Massachusetts

Photo #4 *of 4*

View from Vista Ave.

Auburn date, Newton, Mass

⑥

AUG 16 1979

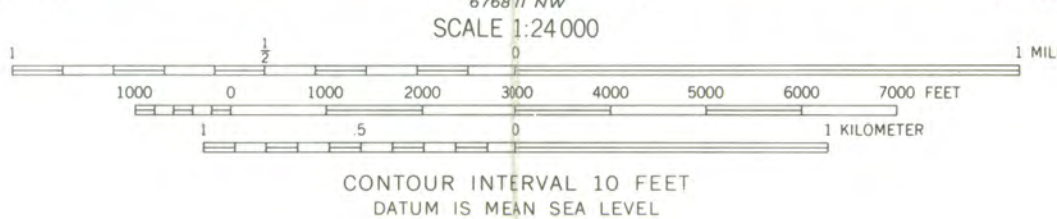
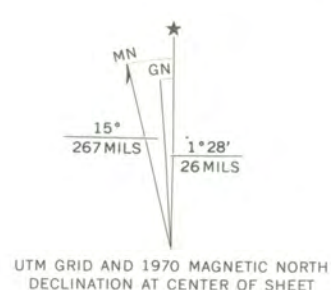
POC
OCT 25 1979

*view from Vista Ave, N.E. faades of house
- showing site*

Newton
Winslow-Haskell House
UTM REFERENCES:
19/514960/4689760



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

NEWTON, MASS.
N4215-W7107.5/7.5

1970

AMS 6768 1 SW-SERIES W814



OCT 25 1979

SECTION 43
BLOCK 36

SCALE 40 FEET TO AN INCH

OCT 25 1979
Newton
Winslow-Haskell Mansion
Assessor's Map
Scale: 1"=40'
Page 26, section 43, block 36, lot 5



25

UNITY ST.

HAWTHORNE

AVENUE

AVENUE

ROAD

WOODLAND

VISTA

AVENUE

40

ASPEN

6

7

27

1
25727

2
17200

3
25000

4
28811

5A
8632

5
16299

*The Castle
Winslow-Haskell Mansion*

14
13770

13
25923

6
39972

7
13484

8
13407

9
22882

12
10626

11
13074

10
10844

Winslow-Haskell Mansion
8-28-79

LASELL JUNIOR COLLEGE

NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02166

Middlesex Co.

August 28, 1979

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Charles A. Herrington
Acting Keeper of the Nat'l Register
United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: #663

Dear Mr. Herrington:

Your letter of August 21, 1979 regarding
"Winslow-Haskell Mansion" at Lasell Junior College
has just come to my attention. In it, you state that
this property has been nominated for listing in the
National Register of Historic Places.

There is no building on our campus by this des-
cription, although we do have a Winslow Hall and a
Haskell Hall. We would be most appreciative of a
more specific description of the building(s) to
which you refer.

Sincerely,

Arthur M. Griffin

AG/g

4p
Sent him long
description &
description
8-16-79

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE RECD **SEP 4 1979**

____ INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

____ INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT

____ TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE C N TAKEN _____

INITIALS _____

816
LASELL JUNIOR COLLEGE, NEWTON, MASS. 02166

DATESept.10,1979.....

To: United States Dept. of the Interior
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service

From: Arthur M. Griffin, President

Re: File #663

SEP 11 1979

Please be advised that the "Winslow-Haskell Mansion" (The Castle) referred to in your communication of Sept. 6th was sold by Lasell Junior College and titled transferred to The Elaine Co., Inc. Newtonville, Massachusetts 02160 on April 23, 1979.

Amg

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D **SEP 17 1979**

INDV: 4 RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

INFO: 1 AVE MATERIAL SENT

TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN

INITIALS

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered OCT 25 1979

Name

Location

Winslow-Haskell Mansion

Newton
Middlesex County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul G. Tsongas

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Robert F. Drinan

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NR Byers/bjr 10/31/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202) 343-6401.