

FORM B - BUILDING

1517

AUG 21 1989

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AUG 21 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

AREA

FORM NO.

174

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Waltham, MA

Address 209 Linden StreetHistoric Name Dunbar-Stearns HousePresent ResidentialOriginal Residential

DESCRIPTION

Built 1846Source Deeds, Fiske JournalStyle Greek Revival/Queen AnneArchitect Charles HarringtonExterior Wall Fabric Shingle and clapboardOutbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) Tower and porch added (1893); rear ells removed ca. 1915)

Condition Excellent

Forwarded on lot Date ca. 1915

Age 0.2A 9,670 sq. ft. 53-4-22

Setting In quiet residential area with predominantly 20th c. houses

UTM REFERENCE 19/317380/4694330USGS QUADRANGLE LEXINGTONSCALE 1:25,000Recorded by Nancy S. SeasholesOrganization Waltham Historical Comm.Date August 20, 1986

revised by C. Jenkins 3/88



Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).



The Peter Dunbar house was built by one of Waltham's important nineteenth century builders and was part of one of the first suburban developments in the city. Furthermore, it is an unusual example of a high-style Greek Revival house that was transformed into a Queen Anne and has some of the most elaborate and best preserved patterned shinglework in the city. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

Set in a residential neighborhood of predominantly twentieth century houses, this house is one of two Queen Annes in the area. It is characterized by a round tower with a bell-shaped roof and a finial; a diamond-shaped shingle pattern at the peak of the front gable; paired recessed windows separated by a pilaster in this gable; and a porch with an elaborate decoration in the pediment over the entrance, paired and tripled plain and fluted Tuscan columns, and an elliptical vault repeating the ellipsis over the front door. Perhaps the most distinctive feature is the elaborate patterned shinglework on the tower and second story; many patterns have been used including concave and convex scallops, a spade shape, and an unusual jagged-flame shape. The extant Greek Revival elements are most visible at the rear of the house: the corniced gable, tall rear chimney, and vestiges of the entablature and one-story portico. The fieldstone foundation is testimony to the fact that the house has been moved in the early 20th century.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

This house, which appears to be a well-preserved Queen Anne, was actually built in 1846 as a high-style Greek Revival suburban residence. It was built for Peter Dunbar by Charles Harrington. Harrington worked at the Bleachery but nonetheless also managed to be one of Waltham's important nineteenth century builders. In 1845 he purchased from George Lyman a large tract of land that extended from Beaver Street halfway to Main Street on either side of what is now Linden Street. He then laid out and constructed half of Linden Street (the Town built the rest) and built three houses, producing what could be considered one of Waltham's first suburban developments (see also 258 Linden Street form). Harrington believed that houses should be set well back from the street in order to give them "plenty of breathing room" and to provide wider avenues for travel (Waltham Free Press-Tribune, June 1, 1888). This house was originally further back, perhaps on the lot now 12 Linden Terrace.

(cont)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Waltham Free Press-Tribune, June 1, 1888.

Waltham Sentinel, May 27, 1864.

Castner, Elizabeth. Waltham Public Library.

Childs, Marjorie. Card file. Waltham Public Library.

Middlesex Deeds - 490:261; 609:513; 669:122,123; 885:179; 913:399; 1483:373; 2153:493; 2154:89; 3296:323; 3373:340.

Maps and atlases - 1854, 1875, 1886, 1900, 1911, 1915, 1918, 1923.

Directories - 1871, 1893, 1895, 1901, 1907, 1909, 1915, 1923.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Waltham, MA	Form No: 174
Property Name: Dunbar-Stearns House	

AUG 21 1989

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

A drawing of the Peter Dunbar House on the 1854 map of Waltham gives a very good idea of its original appearance. It was a three-by-four bay, two-and-a-half-story Greek Revival with a pedimented attic, full entablature and the gable end toward the street; the entrance was on the north side of the facade. There were two windows in the gable and two tall chimneys on the south side of the roof. A one-story portico supported by columns appears to encircle the entire house. Attached at the rear were two two-story ells: the first appears to be at least two bays long and have two ridge chimneys; the second seems to be five bays long with a center entrance in the side and a large door in the last bay. Beyond this is a one-story building, perhaps a stable, with a large door.

Charles Harrington sold the land to Peter Dunbar in August 1846; an entry in the Fiske Journal for December 10, 1846, says that "Peter Dunbar's house [roof] was raised," making this perhaps the first house in Harrington's Linden Street development. (An 1851 house is located at 258 Linden -- see form.)

Peter Dunbar was born in 1801 in Brockton and in 1829 was apparently a truckman and coal dealer in Boston. The 1846 deed calls him a stabler and deeds from the 1850s refer to him as a "merchant" with Dunbar & Clark, so presumably he was a wealthy merchant. In 1863 Dunbar sold the property to George B. Williams, a merchant living in Roxbury who, by 1871, was in the clothing business in Boston. In 1878 Williams sold the property to Henry Ellison of Belmont, who rented out the house.

In 1892 the property was acquired by Joseph R. Stearns, who was in the oil business in Boston. Stearns was apparently wealthy, and he completely remodeled the former Greek Revival house into the present Queen Anne. The tower and porch were added, the side walls extended out to the line of the former portico, the two windows in the front gable given a Queen Anne treatment, the front chimney removed, and the entablature and portico as well as the tower and second story covered with elaborate shinglework. Some of the fluted columns from the original portico were even apparently reused as porch posts. The interior was completely altered, too: the stairwell was enlarged and an elaborate carved golden oak stairway built, golden oak paneling was installed on the first floor, and the original front door replaced with one of carved oak.

Stearns owned the house until 1907; it then went through another period of non-resident ownership. About 1915 it was bought by Patrick J. Whelen, a mason who was located on Calvary Street. Whelen moved his business to this location and made the final transformations of the house. Before 1918 it was moved forward on the lot to its present location and the two original rear ells were detached and became separate residences, now at 12 and 18 Linden Terrace. Thus what appears at first glance to be a well-maintained Queen Anne is actually a house with a much longer and more complicated history.



Residence of Peter Dunbar

DETAIL FROM 1854 MAP

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
Waltham, MA	174
Property Name: Dunbar-Stearns House	

AUG 21 1989

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

PHOTOGRAPHS



LINDEN TERRACE (FORMER ELL) - FACING WEST
Staple to Inventory form at bottom

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Dunbar--Stearns House

MULTIPLE NAME: Waltham MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 8/21/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/05/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/21/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/05/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001517

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ ACCEPT ___ RETURN 9/28/89 REJECT ___ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

In its current form, the residence does not retain integrity from its earlier period - it has been significantly transformed by the detachment of its rear portions and by the addition of its Queen Anne attributes. This transformation and the move of the front portion of the original property have severed its historic associations with the early suburban development and rendered it ineligible under crit. A for those associations.

RECOM./CRITERIA Return
REVIEWER Sawyer
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 9/28/89

See reverse.

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

___ count ___ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___ historic ___ current

DESCRIPTION

___ architectural classification
___ materials
___ descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___ summary paragraph
___ completeness

☒ clarity

☒ applicable criteria

___ justification of areas checked

___ relating significance to the resource
___ context

☒ relationship of integrity to significance

☒ justification of exception

___ other

*Please clarify
an applicable period of
significance for the house
in its Queen Anne state.*

*Please revise
documentation to delete
reference to criterion A
or justify an alternative
argument for it.*

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___ acreage ___ verbal boundary description
___ UTM's ___ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___ sketch maps ___ USGS maps ___ photographs ___ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed

Beth Savage

Phone (202) 343-9540

Date

9/28/89

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).
Indicate north

UTM REFERENCE 19/317380/4694330
USGS QUADRANGLE LEXINGTON
SCALE 1:25,000

1517

AUG 21 1989

AUG 21 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

AREA

FORM NO.

174

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Town Waltham, MAAddress 209 Linden StreetHistoric Name Dunbar-Stearns HouseUse: Present ResidentialOriginal Residential

DESCRIPTION

Date 1846Source Deeds, Fiske JournalStyle Greek Revival/Queen AnneArchitect Charles HarringtonExterior Wall Fabric Shingle and clapboardOutbuildings noneMajor Alterations (with dates) Tower and porch added (1893); rear ells removed (ca. 1915)Condition ExcellentMoved ^{forward on} lot Date ca. 1915Acreage 0.24 9,670 sq. ft. 53-4-22Setting In quiet residential area with predominantly 20th c. housesRecorded by Nancy S. SeasholesOrganization Waltham Historical Comm.Date August 20, 1986

revised by C. Jenkins 3/88

Though maintaining characteristics of its earlier form and style, Greek Revival, the Peter Dunbar House is most significant as a notable example of the Queen Anne-style of architecture. The house has some of the most elaborate and best preserved patterned shinglework in the city. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and meets Criteria C of the National Register of Historic Places at the local level.

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

Set in a residential neighborhood of predominantly twentieth century houses, this house is one of two Queen Annes in the area. It is characterized by a round tower with a bell-shaped roof and a finial; a diamond-shaped shingle pattern at the peak of the front gable; paired recessed windows separated by a pilaster in this gable; and a porch with an elaborate decoration in the pediment over the entrance, paired and tripled plain and fluted Tuscan columns, and an elliptical vault repeating the ellipsis over the front door. Perhaps the most distinctive feature is the elaborate patterned shinglework on the tower and second story; many patterns have been used including concave and convex scallops, a spade shape, and an unusual jagged-flame shape. The extant Greek Revival elements are most visible at the rear of the house: the corniced gable, tall rear chimney, and vestiges of the entablature and one-story portico. The fieldstone foundation is testimony to the fact that the house has been moved in the early 20th century.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

This house, which appears to be a well-preserved Queen Anne, was actually built in 1846 as a high-style Greek Revival suburban residence. It was built for Peter Dunbar by Charles Harrington. Harrington worked at the Bleachery but nonetheless also managed to be one of Waltham's important nineteenth century builders. In 1845 he purchased from George Lyman a large tract of land that extended from Beaver Street halfway to Main Street on either side of what is now Linden Street. He then laid out and constructed half of Linden Street (the Town built the rest) and built three houses, producing what could be considered one of Waltham's first suburban developments (see also 258 Linden Street form). Harrington believed that houses should be set well back from the street in order to give them "plenty of breathing room" and to provide wider avenues for travel (Waltham Free Press-Tribune, June 1, 1888). This house was originally further back, perhaps on the lot now 12 Linden Terrace.

(cont)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Waltham Free Press-Tribune, June 1, 1888.

Waltham Sentinel, May 27, 1864.

Castner, Elizabeth. Waltham Public Library.

Childs, Marjorie. Card file. Waltham Public Library.

Middlesex Deeds - 490:261; 609:513; 669:122,123; 885:179; 913:399; 1483:373;
2153:493; 2154:89; 3296:323; 3373:340.

Maps and atlases - 1854, 1875, 1886, 1900, 1911, 1915, 1918, 1923.

Directories - 1871, 1893, 1895, 1901, 1907, 1909, 1915, 1923.

Though maintaining characteristics of its earlier form and style, Greek Revival, the Peter Dunbar House is most significant as a notable example of the Queen Anne-style of architecture. The house has some of the most elaborate and best preserved patterned shinglework in the city. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and meets Criteria C of the National Register of Historic Places at the local level.

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

Set in a residential neighborhood of predominantly twentieth century houses, this house is one of two Queen Annes in the area. It is characterized by a round tower with a bell-shaped roof and a finial; a diamond-shaped shingle pattern at the peak of the front gable; paired recessed windows separated by a pilaster in this gable; and a porch with an elaborate decoration in the pediment over the entrance, paired and tripled plain and fluted Tuscan columns, and an elliptical vault repeating the ellipsis over the front door. Perhaps the most distinctive feature is the elaborate patterned shinglework on the tower and second story; many patterns have been used including concave and convex scallops, a spade shape, and an unusual jagged-flame shape. The extant Greek Revival elements are most visible at the rear of the house: the corniced gable, tall rear chimney, and vestiges of the entablature and one-story portico. The fieldstone foundation is testimony to the fact that the house has been moved in the early 20th century.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

This house, which appears to be a well-preserved Queen Anne, was actually built in 1846 as a high-style Greek Revival suburban residence. It was built for Peter Dunbar by Charles Harrington. Harrington worked at the Bleachery but nonetheless also managed to be one of Waltham's important nineteenth century builders. In 1845 he purchased from George Lyman a large tract of land that extended from Beaver Street halfway to Main Street on either side of what is now Linden Street. He then laid out and constructed half of Linden Street (the Town built the rest) and built three houses, producing what could be considered one of Waltham's first suburban developments (see also 258 Linden Street form). Harrington believed that houses should be set well back from the street in order to give them "plenty of breathing room" and to provide wider avenues for travel (Waltham Free Press-Tribune, June 1, 1888). This house was originally further back, perhaps on the lot now 12 Linden Terrace.

(cont)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Waltham Free Press-Tribune, June 1, 1888.

Waltham Sentinel, May 27, 1864.

Castner, Elizabeth. Waltham Public Library.

Childs, Marjorie. Card file. Waltham Public Library.

Middlesex Deeds - 490:261; 609:513; 669:122,123; 885:179; 913:399; 1483:373; 2153:493; 2154:89; 3296:323; 3373:340.

Maps and atlases - 1854, 1875, 1886, 1900, 1911, 1915, 1918, 1923.

Directories - 1871, 1893, 1895, 1901, 1907, 1909, 1915, 1923.

#2

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Waltham, MA

Form No:

174

Property Name:

Dunbar-Stearns House

AUG 21 1980

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

A drawing of the Peter Dunbar House on the 1854 map of Waltham gives a very good idea of its original appearance. It was a three-by-four bay, two-and-a-half-story Greek Revival with a pedimented attic, full entablature and the gable end toward the street; the entrance was on the north side of the facade. There were two windows in the gable and two tall chimneys on the south side of the roof. A one-story portico supported by columns appears to encircle the entire house. Attached at the rear were two two-story ells: the first appears to be at least two bays long and have two ridge chimneys; the second seems to be five bays long with a center entrance in the side and a large door in the last bay. Beyond this is a one-story building, perhaps a stable, with a large door.

Charles Harrington sold the land to Peter Dunbar in August 1846; an entry in the Fiske Journal for December 10, 1846, says that "Peter Dunbar's house [roof] was raised," making this perhaps the first house in Harrington's Linden Street development. (An 1851 house is located at 258 Linden -- see form.)

Peter Dunbar was born in 1801 in Brockton and in 1829 was apparently a truckman and coal dealer in Boston. The 1846 deed calls him a stabler and deeds from the 1850s refer to him as a "merchant" with Dunbar & Clark, so presumably he was a wealthy merchant. In 1863 Dunbar sold the property to George B. Williams, a merchant living in Roxbury who, by 1871, was in the clothing business in Boston. In 1878 Williams sold the property to Henry Ellison of Belmont, who rented out the house.

In 1892 the property was acquired by Joseph R. Stearns, who was in the oil business in Boston. Stearns was apparently wealthy, and he completely remodeled the former Greek Revival house into the present Queen Anne. The tower and porch were added, the side walls extended out to the line of the former portico, the two windows in the front gable given a Queen Anne treatment, the front chimney removed, and the entablature and portico as well as the tower and second story covered with elaborate shinglework. Some of the fluted columns from the original portico were even apparently reused as porch posts. The interior was completely altered, too: the stairwell was enlarged and an elaborate carved golden oak stairway built, golden oak paneling was installed on the first floor, and the original front door replaced with one of carved oak.

Stearns owned the house until 1907; it then went through another period of non-resident ownership. About 1915 it was bought by Patrick J. Whelen, a mason who was located on Calvary Street. Whelen moved his business to this location and made the final transformations of the house. Before 1918 it was moved forward on the lot to its present location and the two original rear ells were detached and became separate residences, now at 12 and 18 Linden Terrace. Thus what appears at first glance to be a well-maintained Queen Anne is actually a house with a much longer and more complicated history.



Residence of Peter Dunbar

DETAIL FROM 1854 MAP

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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 GroupName Waltham MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Colburn, Gilbert, House *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper Melores Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
22. Company F State Armory *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper Melores Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
23. Dow, Lenoir, House *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper Melores Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
- See* 24. Dunbar--Stearns House *Substantive Review* *for* Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90
Attest _____
25. East Main Street Historic District *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper Melores Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
26. Eastern Middlesex County Second District Court *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper Melores Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
- See* 27. First Congregational Church *Substantive Review* *for* Keeper Beth L. Savage 9/28/89
Attest _____
- See* 28. First Parish Church *Substantive Review* *for* Keeper Beth L. Savage 9/28/89
Attest _____
29. Fisher, Henry N., House *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper Melores Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
30. Fiske, Elijah, House *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper Melores Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Dunbar--Stearns House

MULTIPLE NAME: Waltham MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 1/23/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/09/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001517

NOMINATOR: STATE

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 3/9/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Locally significant for its
notable Queen Anne Remodelling
of c. 1892.
Initial return comments addressed.*

* *The cut and paste of the inventory form
text is not acceptable. NPS will copy page #2
onto archival paper.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C
REVIEWER George
DISCIPLINE Cultural History
DATE 3/9/90

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

 count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

 historic current

DESCRIPTION

 architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

 summary paragraph
 completeness
 clarity
 applicable criteria
 justification of areas checked
 relating significance to the resource
 context
 relationship of integrity to significance
 justification of exception
 other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

 acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

 sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone _____

Signed _____

Date _____



209 Linden St. #174
WALTHAM MA 02454
Dunbar-Stearns House



209 LINDEN ST #174

WALTHAM MA MA

Dunbar-Stearns House



209 Linden St
WALTHAM MA MRA
#174

Dunbar-Stearns House

© STEVEN GYURIN



Dunbar-Stearns House

209 Linden St

WALTHAM MA MRA

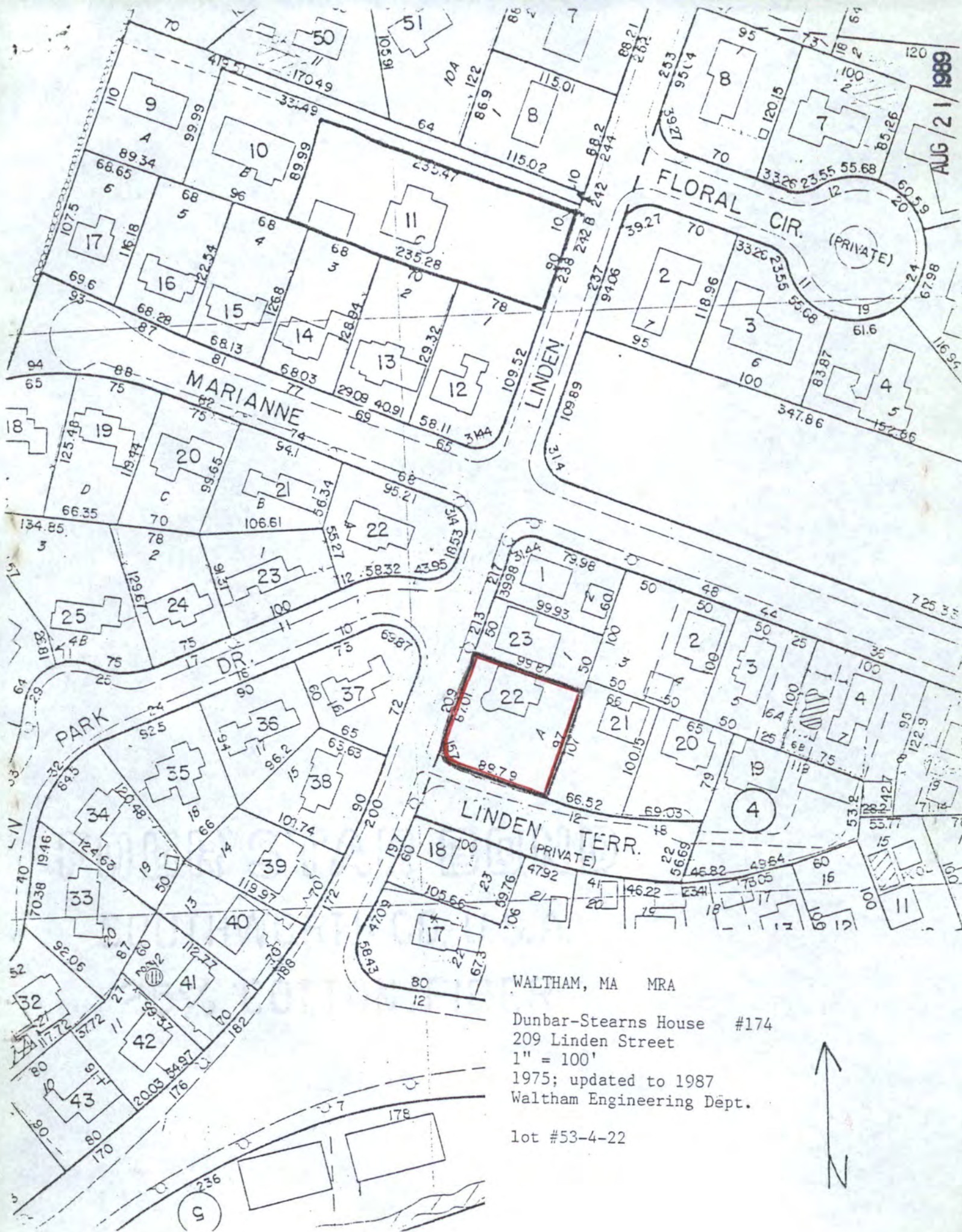
#174



809 LINDEN ST
WALTHAM, MA MRA
#174

Dunbar-Stearns House

AUG 21 1989



WALTHAM, MA MRA

Dunbar-Stearns House #174
209 Linden Street
1" = 100'
1975; updated to 1987
Waltham Engineering Dept.

lot #53-4-22

AUG 21 1989



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

Waltham, Massachusetts MRA
 209 Linden Street
 Dunbar-Stearns House
 70-C-15

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301