

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

1514
AUG 21 1989NATIONAL
REGISTER

AREA

FORM NO.

155

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Town Waltham, MAAddress 457 Lincoln StreetHistoric Name Elijah Fiske House

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

Use: Present ResidentialOriginal Residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1801Source DeedsStyle FederalArchitect unknownExterior Wall Fabric BrickOutbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

none - pool (no structure)Condition GoodMoved no Date n/aAcreage 0.35 16,379 sq. ft. 22-22-21Setting In residential area surrounded
by much smaller 20th c. housesUTM REFERENCE 19/314940/4696750USGS QUADRANGLE LEXINGTONSCALE 1:25,000Recorded by Nancy S. SeasholesOrganization Waltham Historical Comm.Date August 1986

revised C. Jenkins 2/88

The Elijah Fiske House is an excellent example of a brick Federal house and is one of the only three such houses in the city. It was also the family home of one of Waltham's most prominent citizens in the first half of the nineteenth century. It thus meets criteria B and C of the National Register.

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

Set on a residential street surrounded by much smaller twentieth century houses, this imposing Federal house is one of three similar brick Federal houses in the city (see also 600 Beaver Street and 35-37 Central Street forms). It is a double house with a five-by-four bay profile and entrances on both the west and south facades. These facades are almost identical and are characterized by a recessed entry surmounted by a recessed elliptical fanlight (the one on the south facade is blank). The windows are also set in recessed openings and have wooden sills; the overall effect is both simple and elegant. The house has a low hip roof and four tall chimneys and is strikingly similar to another brick Federal house in the city, the Working Farmhouse at the Vale. (see 600 Beaver Street form). The ell on the east now serves as the kitchen; it is attached to another ell on the south that has bridle-jointed rafters and a scarf joint in the ridge pole. A garage ell now extends from the north rear corner. Windows contain 2/2 replacement sash.

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

Although Fiske family tradition maintains that this house was built by Luke Fiske (1794-1845) for his son John T. K. Fiske (1819-1861) when the latter was married in 1841, deed research indicates that this was actually the farmhouse of Luke's father, Elijah Fiske (1765-1843). In 1855 when Elijah Fiske's heirs sold this property, the deed referred to it as the farm formerly owned by Elijah Fiske. Elijah Fiske had acquired this property in March, 1801 (M.D. 141:142) so he presumably built this house shortly after that. Perhaps John T. K. Fiske came to live in this house in 1841 or after his grandfather's death in 1843. More research is needed to clarify this.

Luke Fiske was one of the most prominent men in Waltham of his time: chairman of the Board of Selectmen, an assessor, Representative to the General Court in 1838, and the first president of the Waltham Bank. He died in 1845 at the age of 51, only two years after his father, and perhaps that is why the family sold this farm in 1855. At that time it was purchased by a Thomas Lincoln of Providence, RI. He put it on the market again in 1863 and the advertisement is worth quoting, for it gives a very good picture of the farm at that time:

CONT

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Waltham Sentinel Mar. 5, 1857, Jan. 23, 1863
Middlesex Deeds - 141:142, 719:207, 914:229, 1292:434, 3888:310, 4362:551-52, ..
4527:514, Plan Book 321, plan 9
Maps - 1854, 1875, 1886, 1900, 1911, 1915, 1923.
Directories - 1871, 1880, 1884, 1893, 1895, 1897-98, 1899, 1901, 1903, 1907,
1915, 1921, 1923.
Chilts, Marjorie. Card File. Waltham Public Library.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Waltham, MA

Form No:

155

Property Name:

Elijah Fiske House

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

"Farm in Waltham For Sale"

The excellent farm, formerly owned by the Hon. Luke Fiske, dec'd, situated on Lincoln St. in the northerly part of Waltham 2 mi from village & 11 mi from Bost.

Said farm contains 120 A of all the varieties of land most desirable for farming purposes; it is well adapted for a milk farm for which it is now used. 15 cows & 4 horses are kept in the summer, 20 cows, 2 oxen & 4 horses are kept in the winter, & is capable of keeping several more. There are extensive orchards from which 1000 bbls of apples have been sold in a single yr.

The bldgs are pleasantly located & consist of a large 2-story brick dwelling hse, convenient for 1 or 2 families with an L and spacious sheds attached; 2 barns, 1 60x40 the other 44x36 of modern structure convenient & in good repair with cellars under the whole & sheds attached; a large apple or mill hse with a cellar; also an ice house. There is an abundant supply of good water.

Waltham Sentinel Jan 23, 1863

The farm was sold in 1863 for \$7200 to a George Saunders of Waltham. He in turn sold it in 1873 to Georgianna B. Smith, wife of Everett Smith, then living in Boston. Smith farmed the land and, after his death, Georgianna sold the property in 1914 to Herbert Sheldon, a lawyer. The Sheldons lived in the house from 1915 to 1922; by 1922 all the former Elijah Fiske farm had been acquired by the Moody Land Trust and a subdivision called Mount Lake Villa with the present small house lots had been laid out in the Lincoln-Lake streets area. The lot containing this house, however, had already been sold to George Trider, an employee at the Waltham Watch Company. The Triders owned the house until 1961 when they sold it to Charles Sullivan, a builder and the present owner.

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 RegisterKeeper Aelores Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

22. Company F State Armory

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Aelores Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

23. Dow, Lenoir, House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Aelores Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

24. Dunbar--Stearns House

Substantive Review

Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90

Attest _____

25. East Main Street Historic District

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Aelores Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

26. Eastern Middlesex County Second
District CourtEntered in the
National RegisterKeeper Aelores Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

27. First Congregational Church

Substantive Review

Keeper Beth L. Savage 9/28/89

Attest _____

28. First Parish Church

Substantive Review

Keeper Beth L. Savage 9/28/89

Attest _____

29. Fisher, Henry N., House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Aelores Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

30. Fiske, Elijah, House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Aelores Byers 9/28/89

Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Fiske, Elijah, House
NAME:

MULTIPLE Waltham MRA
NAME:

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: 89001514

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: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 9/28/89 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

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 _____



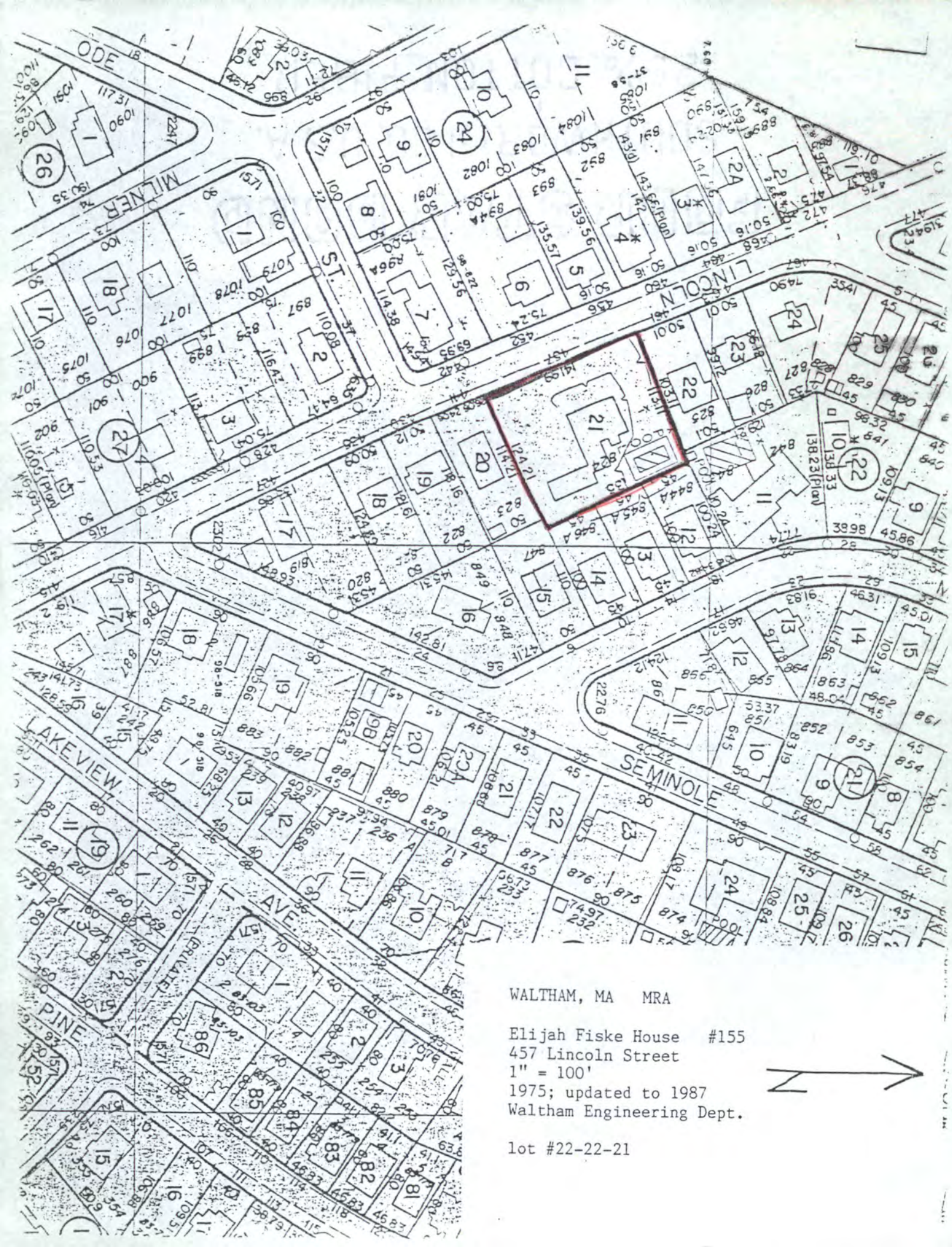
457 LINCOLN
WALTHAM, MA MRA
#155

Fiske, Elijah, Huse



457 LINCOLN
WALTHAM, MA MRA
#155

Fiske, Elijah, House



WALTHAM, MA MRA

Elijah Fiske House #155

457 Lincoln Street

1" = 100'

1975; updated to 1987

Waltham Engineering Dept.

lot #22-22-21





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

Waltham, Massachusetts MRA
 457 Lincoln Street
 Elijah Fiske House
 54-B-16Bk

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301