

0010
JAN 8 2 1990

NC-A

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116Town Newton (Newton Centre)Name of Area (if any) Morton RoadHistoric DistrictPresent Use residentialGeneral Date or Period 1910s-1920sGeneral Condition goodAcreage 79,289 sq.ft./ 1.82 acresRecorded by Candace Jenkins/Susan AbeleOrganization Newton Historical Comm.Date 4/1987; rev. 4/1988

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black
& white) Indicate on back
of each photo street addresses
for buildings shown. Staple to
left side of form.

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 19/318 520 14689610
B 19/318 620 14689610
C 19/318 640 14689510
D 19/318 610 14689510

USGS QUADRANGLE

NEWTON

SCALE

1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Morton Road Historic District possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as an early subdivision which illustrates the way in which central Newton was opened up to residential development by the introduction of Commonwealth Avenue as a major east-west thoroughfare and picturesque boulevard. It is especially important for the quality of its Gilbert Miles Ramsey layout and the way in which that layout complements the unique qualities of the contributing Craftsman and Tudor Revival style houses. The district meets criteria A & C of the NRHP.

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

The Morton Road Historic District is located in a quiet residential neighborhood just north of Commonwealth Avenue between Newtonville and Newton Centre. Morton Road was laid out in 1915 as a short, L-shaped street which defined the corner of Morton Street and Royce Road while opening a portion of the interior for development. Despite the small-scale, attention to detail in both layout and architecture lends a pleasing aspect to this area. A slight bend in the road, a curved corner, a widened turn-around and mature shade trees complement the diminutive scale, and unusual rustic detail of the six contributing houses and their three matching garages designed in the Craftsman and Tudor Revival styles. The two non-contributing houses, a four-square and a Colonial Revival, are not jarring intrusions, but are merely different in scale (two-story) and detail. All of the district components date from the 1910s and 1920s. (see cont. sheet)

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

Several adjacent subdivisions along with the Morton Road Historic District were included in an 1882 proposal to create a 174 acre park in this area, with Bullough's Pond as its centerpiece. The proposal was rejected by the community because of cost and most of the property was subsequently purchased by the Newton Park Land Trust, George Morse and others, trustees. There was little activity there for many years. Between 1907 and 1917, athletic grounds were located on the land near Morton Road, along with greenhouses belonging to a local nursery. However, building began to increase throughout the city between 1914-1917 and development pressure was particularly strong on properties bordering Commonwealth Avenue. After the World War I, building increases were dramatic, hitting a high in the 1920s which was not equaled until after World War II. Most of the building in this area was completed in the 1920s.

(see continuation sheet)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Engineering Department Records: Morton Rd. (1915), N-54, 16667 (1919)
Building Department Records: Morton Rd. Morton St., City Directories and Atlases,
Directory of Boston Architects, MassCOPAR
Newton's Nineteenth Century Architecture: Newtonville

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newton (Newton Centre)	Form No: NC-A
Property Name: Morton Road Historic District	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

Individual examples from the Morton Road Historic District are described below:

Clustered at the intersection of Morton Road and Morton Street are four similar Craftsman style dwellings. The cottages at **77 and 89 Morton Street** (1915) and **11 and 17 Morton Road** (1928, 1915) are all characterized by stuccoed brick-trimmed walls, clipped gable roofs, and large multi-pane windows. The 1 1/2 story cottage at **17 Morton Road** is typical. Derived from the English Craftsman style, it displays rather stark, white stucco wall surfaces relieved by brick trim around first story window and door openings. Its compact 1 1/2 story mass is enclosed by a complex slate roof with clipped gables on all elevations. Windows are frequently grouped and contain multi-pane casement sash. Entries occupying the outer bays of the facade are arched with multi-pane glazed doors.

Located at the bend of the road, near the turn-around, are two adjacent and similarly detailed Tudor Revival style cottages with matching garages. These are **26 and 34 Morton Road** (1923, 1915), distinguished by their stucco walls with half-timbered trim in the attic stories. **34 Morton Road** has a symmetrical three bay facade with half-timbered gable ends and full front dormer; it reveals its early date by retaining Craftsman features such as its entry hood with carved brackets and pent roof. **26 Morton Road** is built on the L-plan more typical of Tudor Revival style houses, and also displays half-timbering in the upper story.

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The Morton Road Historic District is confined to the six houses on Morton Road and the two houses at the intersection of Morton Street which front on that latter roadway. Boundaries are the lot lines of these eight houses as shown on the attached Engineering Map. Boundaries have been drawn to recognize the unique qualities of plan and architecture found on Morton Road and described in this nomination. For this reason, surrounding houses including 38 Morton Road, are excluded even though they generally date from the same 1910s-1920s time period.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newton (Newton Centre)	Form No: NC-A
Property Name: Morton Road Historic District	

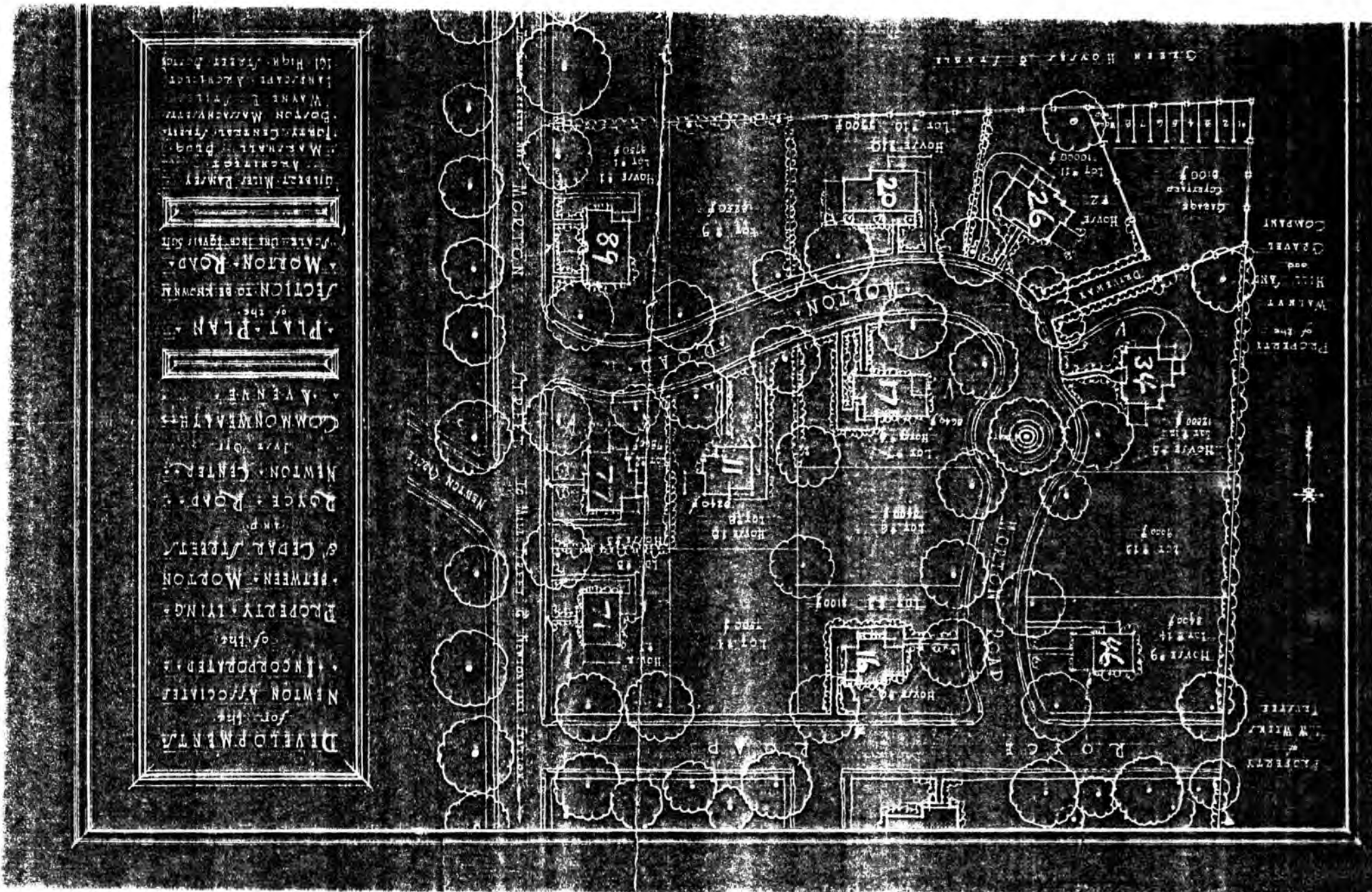
Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

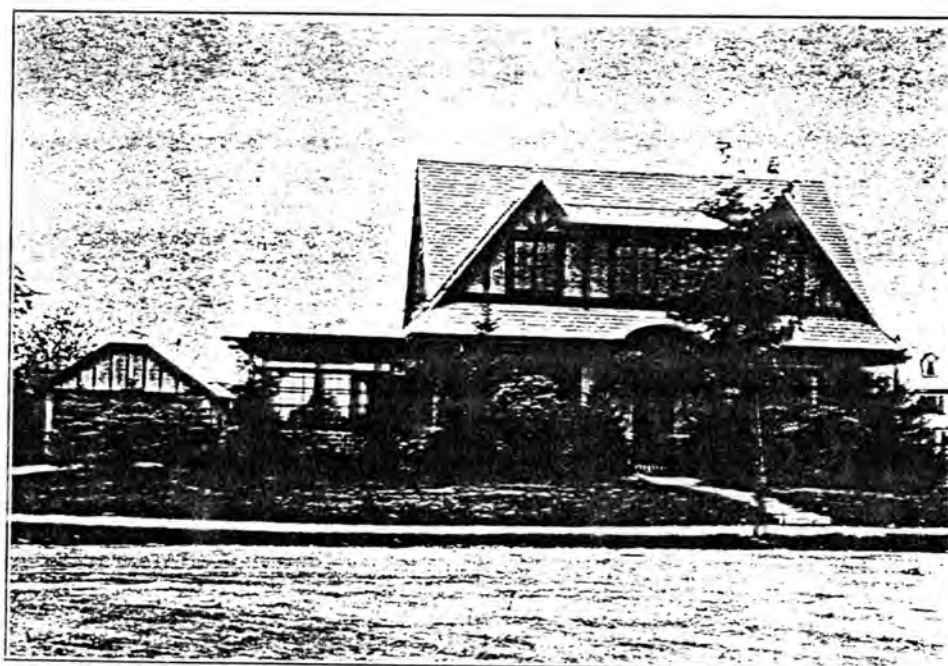
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

The Morton Road Historic District was developed by Newton Associates, beginning in 1915. The subdivision plan, drawn by architect Gilbert Miles Ramsey, was particularly attractive, with building footprints and plantings indicated. Most of the houses in this subdivision were built between 1915 and 1925. The houses at **77 and 89 Morton Street** (as well as nearby 71 Morton Street which is not included in the district) were designed by Gilbert Miles Ramsey and built in 1915. Nothing is known about Ramsey, who practiced in the Boston area between 1912 and 1916. The houses at **11 and 17 Morton Road** were designed by Dow, Harlow & Kimball and built in 1927 and 1926 respectively. Again there is little information about the firm of Dow, Harlow & Kimball, which practiced in Boston between 1921 and 1929. Harry Ramsay designed **26 Morton Road** (1919) and John V. Pearn designed **20 Morton Road** (1931). The architects for **12 and 34 Morton Road** are unknown. Pearn is also unknown, but Harry Morton Ramsay, who practiced from 1910 to 1962, was probably Newton's most prolific architect during the first half of the 20th century. His home was on nearby 18 Nathan Road and he was responsible for the design of many houses on Commonwealth Avenue (NC-B) and numbers of houses in virtually every subdivision adjacent to Commonwealth Avenue, as well as others throughout the city. (No connection has been found between Gilbert Miles Ramsey and Harry Morton Ramsay, whose last names are spelled differently.)

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Morton Road H.D.





ERIC COURTNEY
TWENTY SIX MORTON ROAD NEWTON CENTRE

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: <i>Newton</i>	Form No: <i>NC-A</i>
Property Name:	

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

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

NEWTON, MASS. MULTIPLE RESOURCE AMENDMENT-1988-MORTON ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT

<u>Street Address</u>		<u>SH</u>	<u>Area(sq. ft)</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Form #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Status</u>
11	Morton Rd.	24-44-3	5141	house		1928	Craftsman	(C)
12	Morton Rd.	24-43-11	8523	house garage		1920	CR	(C) (C)
17	Morton Rd.	24-44-5	8149	house w/att garage		1915	Craftsman	(C)
20	Morton Rd.	24-43-16	13705	house garage		1921	4 Sq.	(C) (C)
26	Morton Rd.	24-43-17	16750	house garage		1923	Tudor	(C) (C)
34	Morton Rd.	24-43-18	11870	house garage		1915	Tudor	(C) (C)
77	Morton St.	24-44-1	9811	house garage		1915	Craftsman	(C) (C)
89	Morton St.	24-43-20	10840	house garage		1915	Craftsman	(C) (C)

Number of buildings	8	Sum of square feet in field "area" (Streets not included)	
Number of contributing buildings	6		79289
Number of non-contributing buildings	2		1,824
Number of structures	6	Number of vacant lots	0
Number of contributing structures	3		
Number of non-contributing structures	3		
Number of contributing objects	0		

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 7/23/86

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Newton MRA
State Middlesex County, MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

121. Whittemore's Tavern--
Bourne HouseEntered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melanie Byers 9/4/86

122. Working Boys Home

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melanie Byers 9/4/86

123. Brae-Burn Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melanie Byers 2/16/90

124. Commonwealth Avenue Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melanie Byers 2/16/90

125. Day Estate Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melanie Byers 2/16/90126. Gray Cliff Historic District
(Boundary Increase)Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melanie Byers 2/16/90

127. Monadnock Road Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melanie Byers 2/16/90

128. Morton Road Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melanie Byers 2/16/90* 129. Newton Highlands Historic District
(Boundary Increase)

for Keeper

Attest

Bobby L. Savage 02/16/90* 130. Newtonville Historic District
(Boundary Increase)Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Bobby L. Savage 2/16/90

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Morton Road Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE Newton MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 1/02/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/15/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/02/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/16/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000010

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 2/16/90 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
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone _____

Signed _____

Date _____



Morton Road H.D.

Newton, MA-MRA

77 Morton Rd.

Newton, MA

C. Jenkins

4/8-7

req. @ Jackson Homeslea

ynadleser C

8/8-17



Morton Road H.D.

Newton, MA-MRA

34 and 26 Morton Rd.

Newton, MA

~~Muskeget Co~~

C. Jenkins

4/87

neg. @ Jackson Homestead

87/8-18



Morton Road H.S.

17 and 11 Morton ~~Road~~
Newton, MA

Newton, MA-MRA

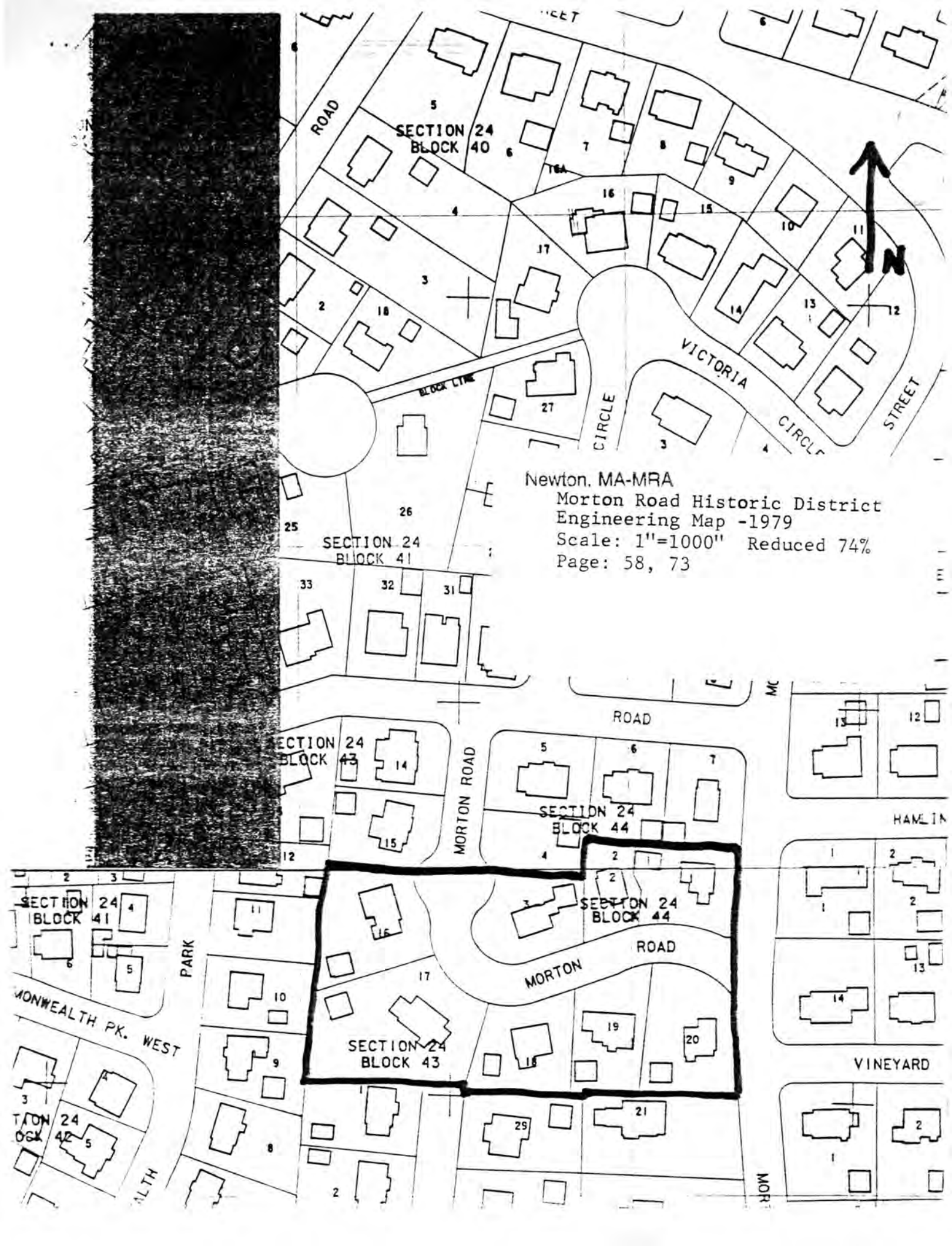
medal C)

C. Jenkins

4/87

req. @ Jackson Homesleaf

87/8-19



SECTION 24
BLOCK 40

SECTION 24
BLOCK 41

SECTION 24
BLOCK 43

SECTION 24
BLOCK 44

SECTION 24
BLOCK 44

SECTION 24
BLOCK 43

SECTION 24
BLOCK 41

Newton, MA-MRA
Morton Road Historic District
Engineering Map -1979
Scale: 1"=1000" Reduced 74%
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