

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Area Letter	Form numbers in this Area
	359,357,360,358,361,363,356,349,348,34

Town Wakefield, Massachusetts
 Name of Area (if any) Church and Lafayette
Streets District

Present Use Residential

General Date or Period 1680, 1790-1840

General Condition Good

Acreage Approximately 7 acres

Recorded by Lee Farrow, Editor

Organization WAKEFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Date April 1987

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black & white). Indicate on back of each photo street addresses of 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).

15C 4N - Buildings
 15Csi 0 - Sites
 0 4NS - Structures

REFERENCE	19/329200	4707200
	329390	4707630
	329270	4707740
	329320	4707700
QUADRANGLE	READING, MA	
	1:25,000	

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Church and Lafayette Street Historic District possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The area's importance was first established with the laying out of Church Street as part of the town's main east-west highway in the late 17th century. The district is significant as the best preserved cluster of residences built during the period of late 18th and early 19th century prosperity and growth that transformed the meetinghouse center into a thriving commercial and residential village. It includes both stylish Federal houses and fine examples of characteristic regional vernacular dwelling forms. The district thus meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

continued

Architectural Significance

The Church and Lafayette Streets District consists of fourteen contiguous residential properties located along Church Street and Lafayette Street at the southern end of Lake Quannapowitt. Eleven of the properties lie in a row on the south side of Church Street and Lafayette Street. The Hartshorne House (41 Church Street) lies on the north side of Church Street next to the lake shoreline and two remaining properties lie on the north side of Lafayette Street in the fork between Lafayette and Church Streets. The fourteen properties encompass approximately 7 acres. Eleven of the structures contribute to the significance of the district while three properties are intrusions.

The residential area at the southern end of the lake along Church and Lafayette Streets consists of some of Wakefield's earliest remaining residential structures. Church Street was laid out in 1681 and is one of Wakefield's oldest major transportation routes. Church Street includes one of Wakefield's few remaining Georgian houses, the James Hartshorne House, several notable Federal Style houses as well as a Greek Revival house. Lafayette Street, laid out in 1824, has several notable examples of the Greek Revival style. The district documents the development of eighteenth and early nineteenth century residential structures during the early settlement of Old Reading, later called Wakefield.

The buildings in the district are in good condition and have experienced relatively few alterations. Each of the structures is constructed from wood; a few of the structures have added aluminum siding. While many of the houses have additions which were usually added to their back side, the original structure is basically still intact.

Most of the houses along Church Street were built in the Federal style; however, the original portion of the Hartshorne House, at 41 Church Street (#359), was built in the seventeenth century. The original section, one room at the southwest corner, is believed to have been built in 1681. The building was expanded to a full 2 1/2 story, five bay home in the Federal period. The original door surround from the 1681 portion, a carpenter's version of an entablature, resting on panelled pilasters, still exists.

The row of early Federal houses at 40, 42 and 44 Church Street share several construction features; all were constructed as 3/4 houses, 3 bays wide, with center chimneys and all were framed with no returns at the gable end which was an unusual feature for Federal house construction in Wakefield that was also found on the Hartsborne House. The building at 42 Church Street (#358), constructed c. 1800, was originally a 3/4 house; two bays were added later to form a five bay structure. The second floor windows of the houses at 42 and 44 Church Street are relatively small which gives them an earlier Georgian appearance. The houses at 40 Church Street (#360), built c. 1804, and at 44 Church Street (#357), built

continued

c. 1790, still have wooden clapboards, while the house at 42 Church Street has aluminum siding.

Two additional Federal houses were added to the row of Federal homes along Church Street at 38 Church Street and at 46 Church Street. The 2 story house at 38 Church Street (#~~361~~), constructed c. 1803, is one of the few Federal houses in Wakefield with brick ends and a clapboard front and back. With its low hipped roof and two end chimneys, the house was most likely a high style building at the time of its construction. The house also features a door surround with pilasters flanking 3/4 length sidelights and supporting a full entablature. The structure at 46 Church Street (#~~356~~), built c. 1814, appears to be the only frame Federal house in Wakefield built with a rear wall of brick. It is a five bay structure with small federal windows and quoins at the corners. Aluminum siding obscures the rear brick facade of the house and some of its detail, but the house still exhibits several federal features.

The house at 34 Church Street (#~~363~~), built c. 1812, is a 6 bay, 2 1/2 story gable roof house with Federal and Greek Revival features. The gable roof has a boxed cornice and eaves returns which were characteristic of both styles. A one story enclosed porch addition to the house covers the door surround, which is Greek Revival in style and may represent a later alteration to the house added in the 1830s.

Several Greek Revival houses dating from the 1830s stand along Lafayette Street. The residential structures located at 34 Lafayette Street and at 28 Lafayette Street have 2 and 1/2 stories and a Georgian-Federal five bay, gable roofed form with Greek Revival additions. The structure at 34 Lafayette Street (#~~347~~), built c. 1835, has a relatively high style one story verandah with fluted doric columns added to its north facade. Although vinyl siding hides much of the detailing of the house, its Greek Revival entry is still visible with its architrave surround and full length sidelights. The house at 28 Lafayette Street (#~~348~~), built c. 1832, has a door surround with a shallow pediment on pilasters, and its windows have architrave surrounds. A third Greek Revival house (#~~349~~) stands at 23 Lafayette Street built in 1834 by John Lambert. Unlike its neighbors at 28 and 34 Lafayette Street, this Greek Revival house stands with its gable facing the street, and its roof eaves make full returns to form a Greek temple-like pediment which is flushboarded to give it an appearance of stone. The house at 36 Lafayette Street (#~~NA~~), while covered with aluminum or vinyl siding, retains some of its early architectural features including its Greek Revival entry.

The remaining three houses located in the district at 36 Church Street, 33 Lafayette Street and 34 Lafayette Street do not contribute to the significance of the district.

continued

Historic Significance

The Church and Lafayette Street district includes examples of some of Wakefield's oldest surviving buildings dating from the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. The residential streets located west of the town common document the early settlement of the town of Wakefield.

In the seventeenth century, Wakefield was originally part of the old town of Reading. Old Reading was established in 1644 as a result of land grants in 1638 and 1639, and covered much of the same area as the two present-day towns of Wakefield and Reading. In 1818, the southern section of the old town of Reading, now Wakefield, broke away and incorporated as a separate town called South Reading. In 1868 South Reading changed its name to Wakefield.

The original seventeenth century town center of Old Reading developed at the base of Lake Quannapowitt, which is now the location of the town center of Wakefield. In the lakeshore area, the settlers put aside a common land which was excluded from the 1647 general division of land. The common land extended south from the shore of Lake Quannapowitt to the present intersection of Main and Albion Streets, and it still forms the focus of the town today.

A highway system was first laid out in the 1650s. Main Street was laid out over the "Old Native American Pathway" in 1651, and was the main route to Chelsea and Boston. In 1681, Church Street was laid out over to Cowdry's Hill to Woburn and Medford.

Twenty-nine years after the first settlers arrived, in 1667, there were 59 houses in Wakefield. Two structures with remnants dating from the seventeenth century remain in Wakefield, one of which is the Hartshorne House located at 41 Church Street. An original section of the Hartshorne House, one room at the southwest corner, is believed to have been built in 1681. The building was expanded to a full 2 1/2 story, five bay home in the Federal Period. Mary and Thomas Hodgman built the original section of the building c. 1681. Following several successive owners, Colonel James and Aigail Hartshorne bought the house in 1803. In 1929 the house was purchased by the town and it is currently maintained as an historic landmark by the Hartshorne House Association.

During the last quarter of the eighteenth century, farmland surrounding the common continued to be subdivided and residential areas began to grow east and west of the common. During the early eighteenth century, several Federal houses facing the lake were built along Church Street. The Federal house at 42 Church Street was built c. 1800 by Samuel Stacey, who came to the First Parish of Old Reading from Townshend, Mass. The house at 42 Church Street and the house at 44 Church Street, built c. 1790, were owned by members of the Winship family in the 1850s and were both owned by George Seaver (superintendent of the Lakeside cemetery) in the latter nineteenth century. The Federal building at 40 Church Street was constructed c. 1804 for Ebenezer Wiley, a successful shoe

continued

manufacturer. Francis Hay, a cabinet-maker, was the first owner of the Federal house at 38 Church Street, built c. 1803. The house at 46 Church Street was built c. 1814, making it one of the last Federal houses to be built in the row of Federal houses facing the lake on Church Street. The Greek Revival house at 34 Church Street, was built c. 1800 by William Deadman.

A great deal of progress was made in the laying out of streets beginning in the mid-nineteenth century. The area around Lafayette Street had originally been set off as part of the common land in 1641, but was sold to Rev. Caleb Prentiss in 1770. In 1824 the heirs of Caleb Prentiss subdivided the land and laid out Lafayette Street. By 1824, twenty-two house lots were laid out along Lafayette Street, and by the 1830s, several houses were built including the house at 28 Lafayette Street built c. 1832, the house at 23 Lafayette Street built c. 1834, and the house at 34 Lafayette Street built c. 1835.

The area south of Lake Quannapowitt around the town common remained the center of town until the mid-nineteenth century. In the 1850s, the commercial focus of the town shifted to the southern end of Main Street; however, the civic and ecclesiastic center of Wakefield remained located on the south shore of Lake Quannapowitt, and following the early residential growth along Church and Lafayette Streets, further residential areas continued to grow along the common throughout the nineteenth century.

CHURCH AND LAFAYETTE STREETS DISTRICT
Verbal Boundaries

The boundaries of the Church and Lafayette Streets District are shown by the blue line on the accompanying map, which is a portion of Wakefield Assessor's Map #12. Specifically, the boundaries of the district are as follows: beginning at the northeastern corner of the lot at 28 Lafayette Street and travelling south along the lot's eastern boundary to the lot's southeastern corner; then turning right and proceeding west along the rear lot lines of 28, 32, 34, and 36 Lafayette Street and of 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, and 46 Church Street; then turning right at the southwestern corner of the lot at 46 Church Street and travelling north along the lot's western boundary to the curbline; then crossing to the northern side of Church Street, turning right and proceeding west along the curbline to the corner of Church Street and North Avenue; then turning right and travelling north along the western curbline of the park lot of the Hartshorne House until reaching the lot's northwestern corner; then turning right and travelling along the northern border of the park lot of the Hartshorne House to the shoreline of Lake Quannapowitt; then turning right and travelling southeast along the lake shoreline until reaching the cemetery border; then turning right and proceeding along the southeastern border of the park lot of the Hartshorne House to the Church Street curbline; then travelling east across Church Street to the northern corner of the lot at 33 Lafayette Street; then proceeding south along the lot's eastern boundary until reaching the northwestern corner of the lot at 29 Lafayette Street; then turning left and proceeding east along the rear lot line of 29 Lafayette Street to the lot's northeastern corner; then turning right and travelling south along the eastern border of 29 Lafayette Street to the curbline; then crossing Lafayette Street and returning to the northeastern corner of the lot at 28 Lafayette Street.

Lee Farrow, Editor

Text for the district nomination was compiled from the following:

Huggins, Carol. Multiple Resource Area Nomination for the Town of Wakefield, Massachusetts (draft).

Huggins, Carol and Kenney, Sharon. "Chapter Five: National Register Nominations" from Preserving Wakefield: A Plan for Action, January 1986.

Architectural Planning Associates, Survey Completion Report, Cambridge, MA, 1985. (Includes individual building inventory sheets)

NOTE: Excerpts were extracted from the above reports and incorporated in the district nomination.

CHURCH AND LAFAYETTE STREETS DISTRICT



View across Veterans Field from North Avenue. Hartshorne House (with van) in background.



Church Street at North Avenue looking East. Church Street Nos. 46, 44, 42 and 40 (right to left).

CHURCH AND LAFAYETTE STREETS DISTRICT



Church Street
looking East.
Hartshorne House on
left, Church St Nos.
38, 36, and 34
opposite (right to
left).



Church and Lafayette
Streets. No 33
Lafayette on left.
Church Street No 34
and Lafayette Street
No 36 on right.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Wakefield MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review		Date/Signature
Cover	Substantive Review	
1. Beacon Street Tomb	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Beth L. Savage 7/14/88</u> Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
2. Beebe Homestead	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
3. Boardman, E., House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
4. Boit, Elizabeth, House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
5. Building at 35--37 Richardson Avenue	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/86</u> Attest _____
6. Building at 38--48 Richardson Avenue	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
7. Center Depot	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
8. Church--Lafayette Streets Historic District	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
9. Common District		Keeper <u>Beth L. Savage 3/2/90</u> Attest _____
10. Cowdry, Jonas, House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Church--Lafayette Streets Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE Wakefield MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 5/23/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/06/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/22/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/07/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000757

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 7/6/89 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 _____



CHURCH and LAFAYETTE ST. DISTRICT

Hartshorne House on left.

Opposite: Church St. Nos 38, 36 and 34
(~~left~~ right to left.)

Waverley 11th Mo



CHURCH and LAFAYETTE ST. DISTRICT

33 Lafayette on left.

36 Lafayette and 34 Church on right.

Worcester, MA



CHURCH and LAFAYETTE ST. DISTRICT
VETS FIELD.

Worcester MA Ma



CHURCH and LAFAYETTE ST DISTRICT

Church St. Nos 46, 44, 42 and 40
(right to left.)

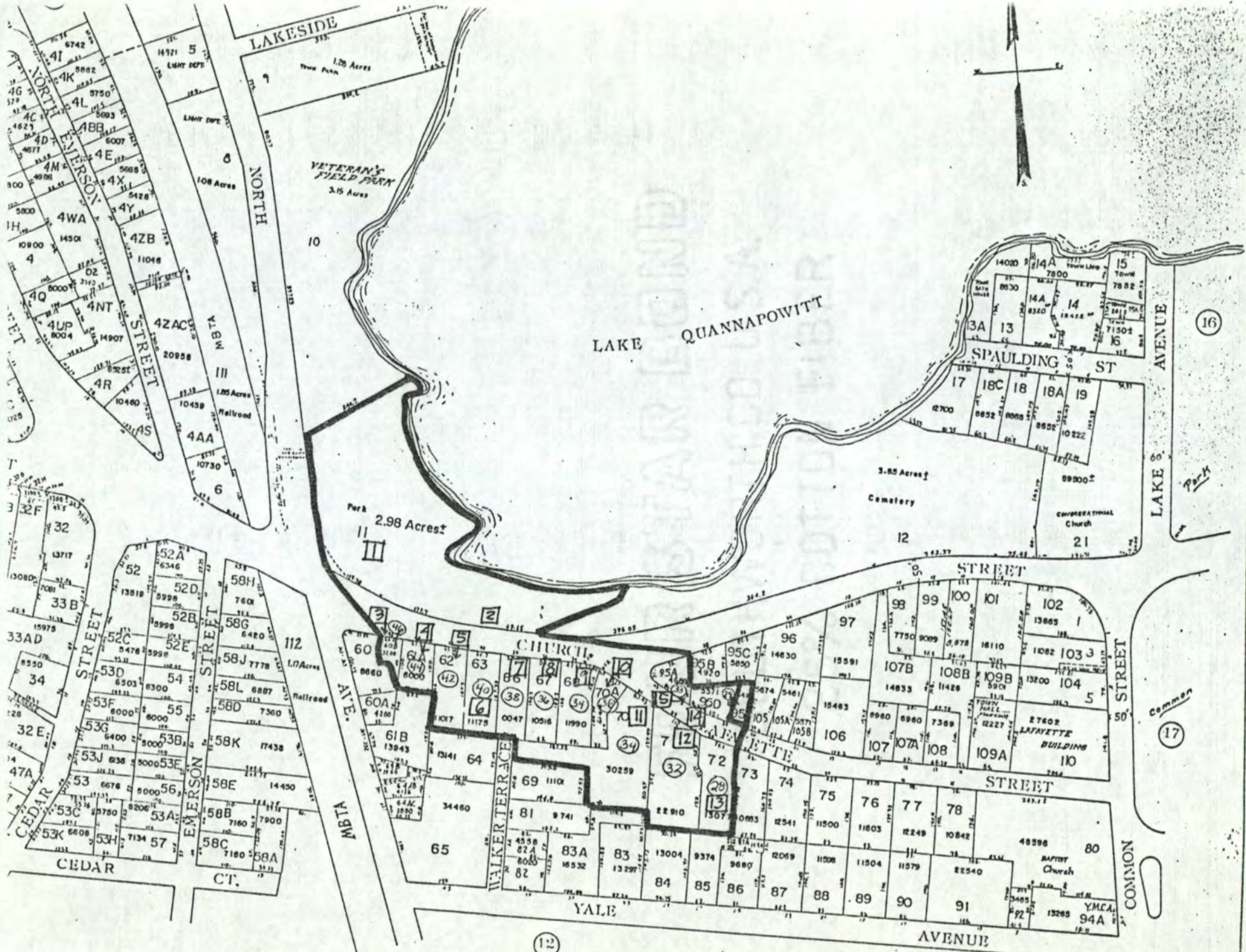
Worcester MA, Ma



CHURCH and LAFAYETTE ST. DISTRICT

Left to right: Lafayette St. Nos 32, 34 + 36.

Wakefield MRA, Ma



Issued

REVISED JAN. 1954

Scale 1 inch equals 108' R.W. Carleton Civil Eng'r

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000300