

MAY 23 1989

720

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA

FORM NO.

D

252

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

Town Wakefield
Address 127 Chestnut Street
Historic Name Elizabeth Boit House

Use: Present Dwelling
Original Dwelling

DESCRIPTION

Date c. 1911

Source SPNEA

Style English Cottage Style

Architect Harland O. Perkins

Exterior Wall Fabric Stucco

Outbuildings None

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

None

Condition Good

Moved NA Date NA

Acreage 1-3/4 acres

Setting Dramatically set on hill overlooking intersection of two streets.

UTM REFERENCE 19/328570/4707530

USGS QUADRANGLE Reading, Mass.

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Architectural Preservation Associates
Organization Wakefield Historical Commission
Date March 1985

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The focus of Wakefield's only family residential compound, (which also includes 88 & 90 Prospect St.); this house was owned by Elizabeth Boit, a founder of the Harvard Knitting Mills, which for over 50 years was a major industry in town. The house is one of 3 designed by local architect Harland Perkins, and is dramatically set on a mill overlooking Prospect and Chestnut Streets, and represents an extremely well preserved example of the English Cottage style. It retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and meets Criterion C of the NRHP on the local level.

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

This house and its neighbors at #88 and #90 Prospect Street were designed in the English Cottage Style inspired by C.F.A. Voysey's work in England at the turn of the century. It has a tripartite angled plan and is 2½ stories in height under a tile roof supported by heavy brackets. Arched windows on the second floor are sets of three with 8/1 sash flanked by 6/1. The entry is a portico with a Neo-Georgian surround, an historicizing detail.

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 was built by Elizabeth Boit, born in 1848, one of the two founders of the Harvard Knitting Mills which played a key role in Wakefield's economy from 1889 into the 20th century. Ms. Boit, who lived on Richardson Avenue before moving to this house, was in charge of the business side of the manufacturing and was also influential in the progressive employee relations which marked the firm. She was one of the first women to break into the male-dominated textile industry, and was the first woman to serve as a bank Director. She was considered in 1923 as the only woman in the U.S., and possibly in the world, to be actively conducting a large and successful textile factory. She and Winship were pioneers in improving workers conditions, providing health care in the factory and an innovative bonus plan which shared the company's profits with its employees.

Boit bought this property from George Carpenter, a dealer in paints and oils. Carpenter was among the original directors of the South Reading Bank, assisted in founding the Beebe Library and the Richardson Light Guard. He sold insurance with his son, Fred.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
Wakefield	252
Property Name: 127 Chestnut St	

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

The house was designed by Wakefield architect Harland O. Perkins, who lived at 8 Park Street and was responsible for this house and those at #88 and #90 Prospect Street as well. Perkins provided street facades for #90 and this house and placed #88 at a right angle to the street. Numbers 90 and 127 are actually oriented toward an inner court they formed which was formally landscaped. The compound of houses included a playhouse and greenhouses. This is the only remaining home of one of Wakefield's manufacturers, as those of Cyrus Wakefield and S.O. Richardson, once considered "mansions" by the townspeople, have been destroyed.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Wakefield MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

Cover

Substantive Review

1. Beacon Street Tomb

Entered in the
National RegisterSr Keeper Beth L. Savage 7/4/8Keeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89

Attest _____

2. Beebe Homestead

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89

Attest _____

3. Boardman, E., House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89

Attest _____

~~4. Boit, Elizabeth, House~~Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89

Attest _____

5. Building at 35--37 Richardson Avenue

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelous Byers 7/6/86

Attest _____

6. Building at 38--48 Richardson Avenue

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89

Attest _____

7. Center Depot

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89

Attest _____

8. Church--Lafayette Streets
Historic DistrictEntered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89

Attest _____

9. Common District

Entered in the
National RegisterSr Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/2/90

Attest _____

10. Cowdry, Jonas, House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89

Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Boit, Elizabeth, House
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: 89000720

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
☐ UTMs ☐ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☐ USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



D 252

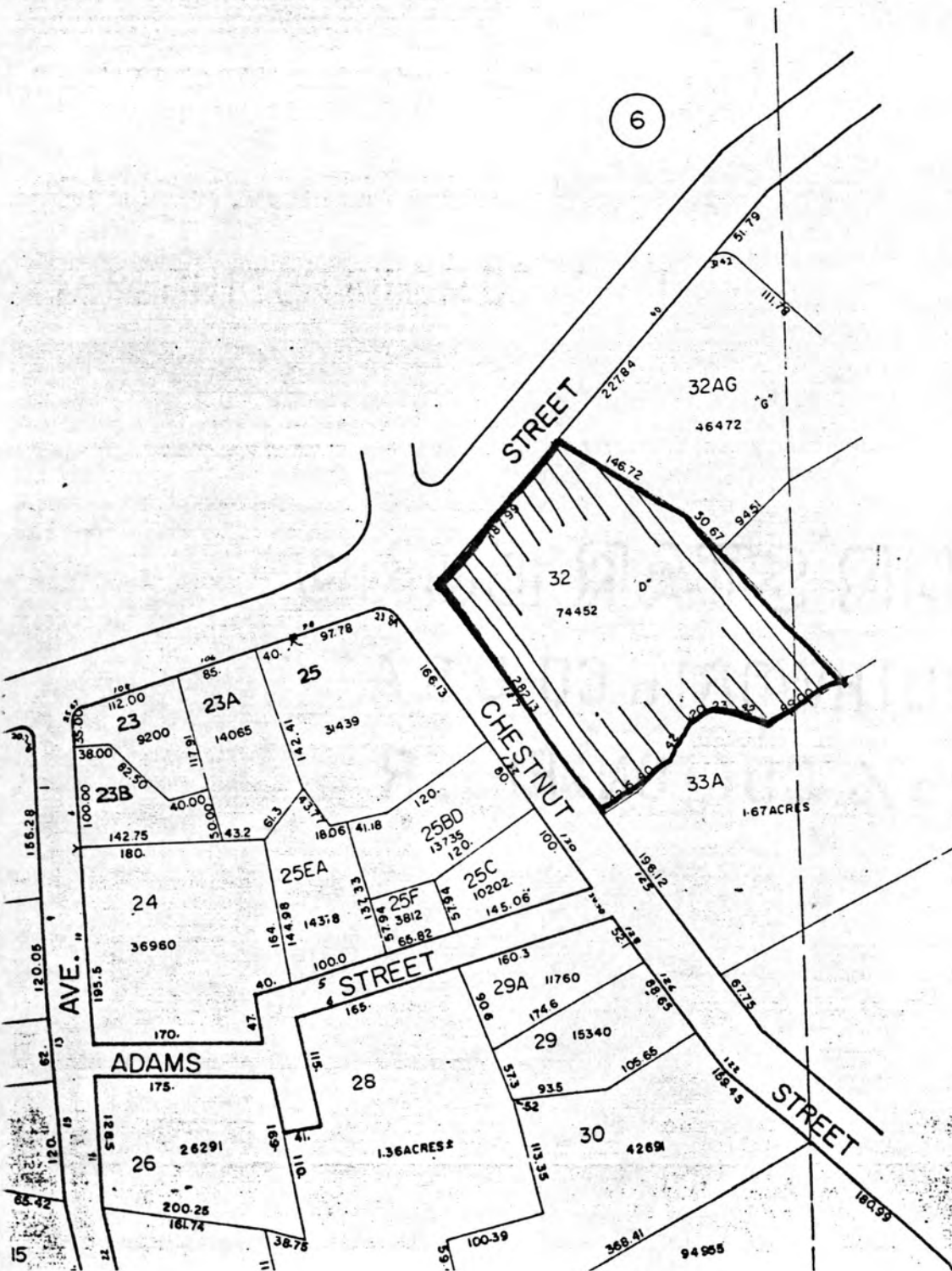
127 Chestnut St

Boit, Elizabeth, Horse
Wakefield MRA, Ma

127 CHESTNUT STREET



SCALE: 1" = 80'



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000300