

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116

Town Arlington, MA

Address 160 Westminster Avenue

Historic Name Thomas Swadkins House

Use: Present Residential

Original Residential

DESCRIPTION:

Date ca. 1882

Source Arlington Advocate, Aug. 26, 188

Style Italianate with Victorian Gothic elements

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings None

Major alterations (with dates) None

Moved No Date N/A

Approx. acreage Less than one acre

Setting This house is located at the top of a steep hillside.

UTM: 19/320100/4699630

PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)  
staple to left side of form

Photo number \_\_\_\_\_

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date 12/84

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This building is one of two heavily decorated small houses in Crescent Hill, a development in northwestern Arlington. Its detailing and form reveal the impact of mid-19th century styles. Of special note are the punched and decorated gable trusses and ornamental porch rail and brackets—Gothic in feeling—and Italianate window surrounds.

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

The Crescent Hill subdivision was first developed in the 1870s as an attempt to offer homesites to people of modest means. The developers, the Mechanics Cooperative Association, offered favorable terms to encourage prospective buyers. Cooperative interest in the community continued as the area grew with the founding of a neighborhood improvement association. The area includes a wide mix of residential building types and styles, all perched upon Crescent Hill's rocky landscape.

**CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION**

The Thomas Swadkins House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It meets Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES** (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Arlington Advocate, August 26, 1882

BOSTON MASSACHUSETTS STATE  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
RECORDS

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Arlington Multiple Resource Area  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

41. Russell Common

Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper Melora Byers 4/18/85

Attest

42. Shattuck, Ralph W., House

Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper Melora Byers 9/27/85

Attest

43. Sterling-Cutter, Ella  
Mahalla, House

Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper Melora Byers 4/18/85

Attest

44. Swadkins, Thomas, House

Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper Melora Byers 4/18/85

Attest

45. Swan, Henry, House

Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper Melora Byers 9/27/85

Attest

46. Symmes, Jr., Stephen, House

Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper Melora Byers 4/18/85

Attest

47. Taylor-Dallin House

Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper Melora Byers 9/27/85

Attest

48. Wayside Inn

Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper Melora Byers 9/27/85

Attest

49. Whittemore House

Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper Melora Byers 4/18/85

Attest

50. Winn Farm

Entered in the  
National Register

*for* Keeper Melora Byers 4/18/85

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Swadkins, Thomas, House (Arlington MRA)  
Middlesex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. MAR 6 1985  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/4/86  
Date Due: 7/4/85 - 4/20/85  
Action:  ACCEPT 4-18-85  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

**Entered in the  
National Register**

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

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**8. 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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Swadkins, Thomas, House

Arlington MRA, MA

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EVERGREEN

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LEXINGTON



Arlington MRA  
 Thomas Swadkins House  
 160 Westminster Avenue

