

MAY 23 1989

712

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
C	224

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 WakefieldAddress 26 Albion StreetHistoric Name Item BuildingUse: Present CommercialOriginal Commercial

DESCRIPTION

Date c. 1912Source History of WakefieldStyle Early 20th century commercialArchitect NAExterior Wall Fabric brick & cast stone trimOutbuildings None

Major Alterations (with dates) one
story additions on west, 1935 & 1958

Condition GoodMoved NA Date NAAcreage Under one acre

Setting corner building on city
street

UTM REFERENCE 19/329750/4707510USGS 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)

A well preserved representative of early 20th century commercial building design, the Item Building is the home of Wakefield's dominant daily newspaper, established 1854, which was one of the first suburban newspapers in New England to have its own publishing facilities. The building retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and meets criteria A and 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 is a good example of early 20th century commercial building in Wakefield. It makes use of the latest construction techniques to provide large window bays and while it rests on granite foundations, and has granite window sills, the building uses cast stone for its cornice. Cast stone was an economical material, easy to work with, which grew in popularity in the next decades. The Commercial Style can be seen in this building pulling away from the historicizing approach. It has along its 3 and 4 bay street facades piers which separate the bays and have copper pier caps, however there is not a strong reference being made to an earlier style. At the entrance where allusions are often made to earlier styles, the shed roof entrance hood on Craftsman Style braces is non-historicizing.

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

The Daily Item newspaper was one of the first suburban papers in New England to have its own printing and production plant. The newspaper had been established in 1894 by Fred Young, who previously had published a weekly paper in Wakefield. Young's paper was successful and in 1900 when he decided to sell it, changed ownership several times then was bought by Harris M. Dolbeare, a publisher dedicated to high quality and to keeping up with printing technology which was to change rapidly in the next decades. This building was constructed in 1912 to house the paper's administration and production in the center of town. In the following year a Duplex Junior web press was installed and in 1915 the first Linotype machines were bought. The paper has won awards for its news presentation. It dominated the newspaper business in Wakefield from the time of its establishment, although competition was attempted at various times.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Eaton William and Historic Committee. The History of Wakefield, Massachusetts, 1944.

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

61. House at 8 Park Street

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper *Shelover Byers*7/6/89

Attest _____

62. House at 88 Prospect Street

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper *Shelover Byers*7/6/89

Attest _____

63. House at 9 White Avenue

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper *Shelover Byers*7/6/89

Attest _____

64. House at 90 Prospect Street

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper *Shelover Byers*7/6/89

Attest _____

65. House at 95 Chestnut Street

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper *Shelover Byers*7/6/89

Attest _____

66. Item Building

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper *Shelover Byers*7/6/89

Attest _____

67. Jordan, Dr. Charles, House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper *Shelover Byers*7/6/89

Attest _____

68. Kendall, Deacon Thomas, House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper *Shelover Byers*7/6/89

Attest _____

69. Lakeside Cemetery Chapel

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper *Shelover Byers*7/6/89

Attest _____

70. Lynnwood

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper *Shelover 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 Item Building
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: 89000712

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

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



C 224

26 Albion St.

Iten Building

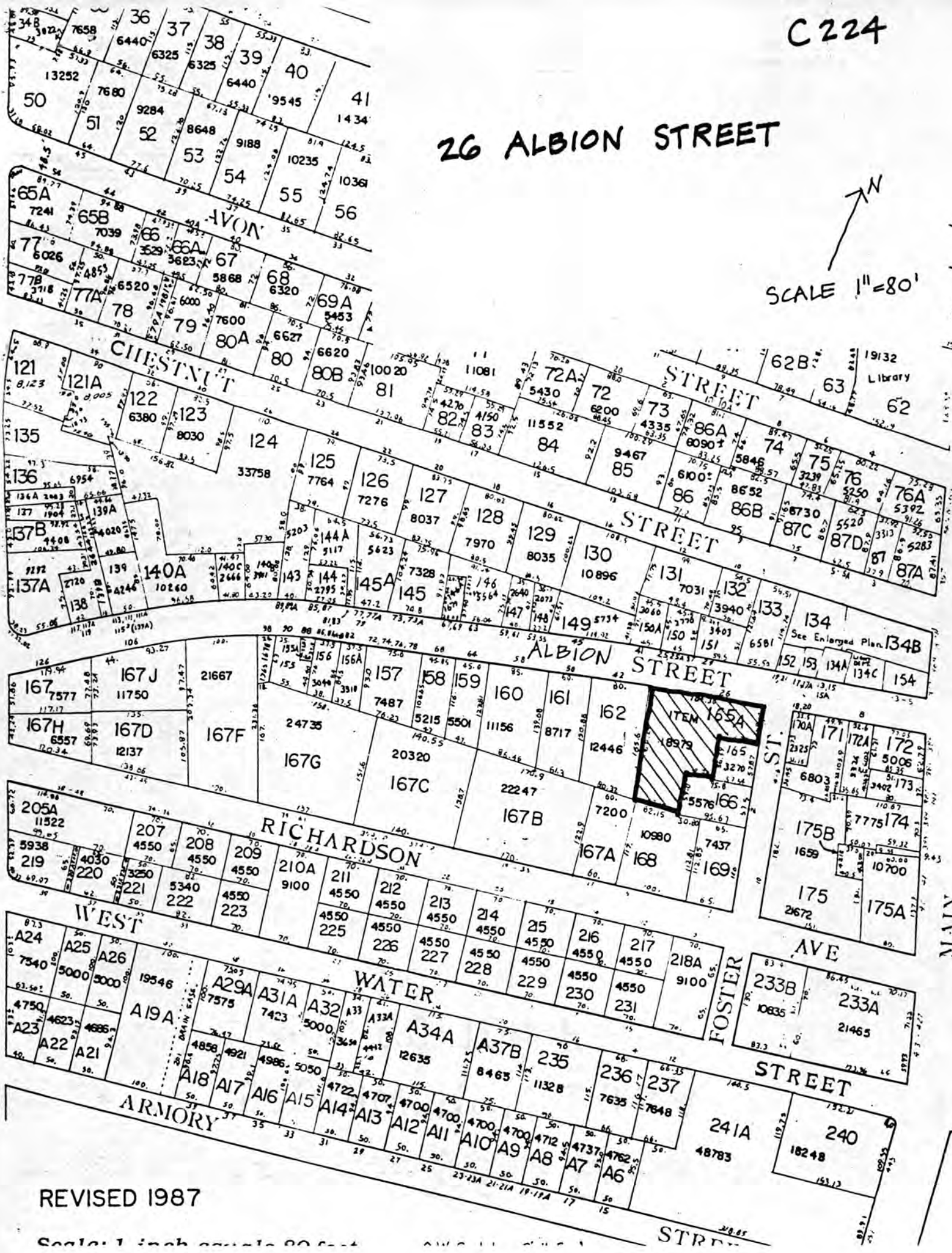
Worcester MRA, Ma

C 224

26 ALBION STREET



SCALE 1"=80'



REVISED 1987

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000300