

FORM B - BUILDING

AUG 21 1989

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

NATIONAL REGISTER
Town Waltham, Massachusetts

Address 4 Adams Street

Historic Name "The Oxford"

Photo (3"x 3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Use Present multi-family

Original multi-family

DESCRIPTION

Date 1897

Source Water Department

Style Colonial Revival

Architect UNKNOWN

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboards

Outbuildings none-

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

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition good

Moved no- Date n/a-

Acreage 9,000 sq. ft. 0-21. 69-12-2

Setting Prominently sited at Spruce St./Adams St. intersection facing small, rectangular landscaped area.

UTM REFERENCE 19/315620/4693190

Recorded by Edward W. Gordon

USGS QUADRANGLE Newton Quadrangle

Organization Waltham Hist. Comm.

SCALE 1:25000

Date June, 1986

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Oxford possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and associations. It is significant as a link with the South Side's last intensive (multi-family) phase of development. It is also a rare, well-detailed and well-preserved example of a Colonial Revival style double triple-decker. The Oxford meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

Although Waltham possesses very few examples of three-decker housing, the Oxford is as fine an example of Colonial Revival three-decker housing as can be found anywhere in the Boston area. Particularly noteworthy is its form, high quality craftsmanship and rich exterior detailing. This 6-family house rises 3 floors from a boulder-stone foundation to a flat roof with elaborate dentillated and modillion blocked cornice. The cornice entablature features raised swag-work ornamentation (plaster?) at the entablature. This house retains its clapboards. Its edges are accented by narrow boards. This house is very deep, with 8-bay side walls.

The main facade is dominated by a pair of bow-fronts which flank an entrance-bay with a handsome projecting Tuscan-columned front porch. Still intact are the original entrance enframements and front door with a segmental (cont)

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

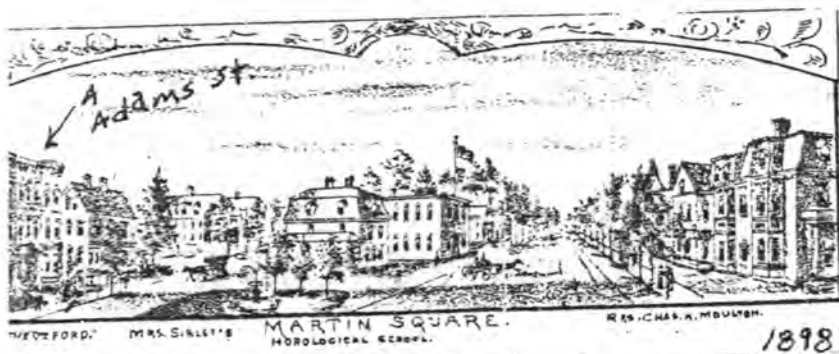
Built in 1897, the Oxford provides a physical link with the South Side's final turn-of-the-century phase of intensive residential development. By the late 1890's, the American Watch Company was embarking on what would be a final plant expansion campaign (ca. 1890's - 1910). Profitable new enterprises such as O'Hara Watch Dial were being established and substantial brick masonry blocks were being built along Moody Street. The Oxford's land had been part of Charles Wooley's house lot which contained a T-shaped house and stable (neither structures are extant). During the late 19th century, the Wooley house was operated as a boarding house. On April 30, 1892, Charles Wooley sold the Oxford's house lot to Melvin M. Johnson, who in turn sold it to Frank A. Foster in February, 1893. Ivyane Foster, in turn sold The Oxford's lot to Eugene H. Smith in 1894 (3832:181). Water Department record indicate that The Oxford was completed in 1897. The house remained in the Eugene H. Smith family until at least the early 1920's. Waltham Directories do not provide information on Smith's occupation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps/Atlases 1874, 1881, 1883, 1886, 1898, 1900, 1911, 1923
Waltham/Watertown Directories, 1890's, early 1900's
Middlesex Deeds, 2176:110, 3832:181, 3954:506

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, The Oxford, continued

-headed moulding. The front door is flanked by sidelights, and is surmounted by a transom exhibiting bold gold-lettering which reads "The Oxford". Above the front porch is a tripartite window, with cornice-headed and swag-motif decorated enframements. A Palladian window appears at the entrance bay's third level. Running above the first floor windows is a continuous swag ornamental entablature exhibiting the ubiquitous (on this house) swag motif. Standard size, simply-enframed windows appear on the third floor. In general, this house's windows contain 2/2 wood sash. The Oxford is presently painted an attractive buff-brown, with chocolate-brown trim. Situated at the corner of the northern terminus of Adams Street (and the residential part of Crescent Street), this house provides an attractive, well-detailed introduction to "the Watch" neighborhood's exceptional collection of mid-19th century residences.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 21 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Waltham MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- 61. Mount Feaks Cemetery Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
- sc 62.* Mt. Prospect School for Boys Substantive Review *for* Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90
Attest _____
- 63. Murray, Robert, House Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
- sc 64.* Newton Street Bridge Substantive Review *for* Keeper Beth L. Savage 9/28/89
Attest _____
- 65. North Lexington Street Historic District Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
- 66. O'Hara Waltham Dial Company Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
- 67. Olcott, John E., House Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
- 68. Oxford, The Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
- 69. Peck, John M., House Entered in the
National Register *for* Keeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
- sc 70.* Piety Corner Historic District Substantive Review *for* Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90
Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Oxford, The

MULTIPLE NAME: Waltham MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 8/21/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/05/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/21/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/05/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001483

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 9/28/89 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

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____

Date _____



Oxford, The

MHC #26

4 Adams St.

WALTHAM, MA MRA



Oxford, The

MHC # 26

4 Adams St.

Waltham, MA MRA

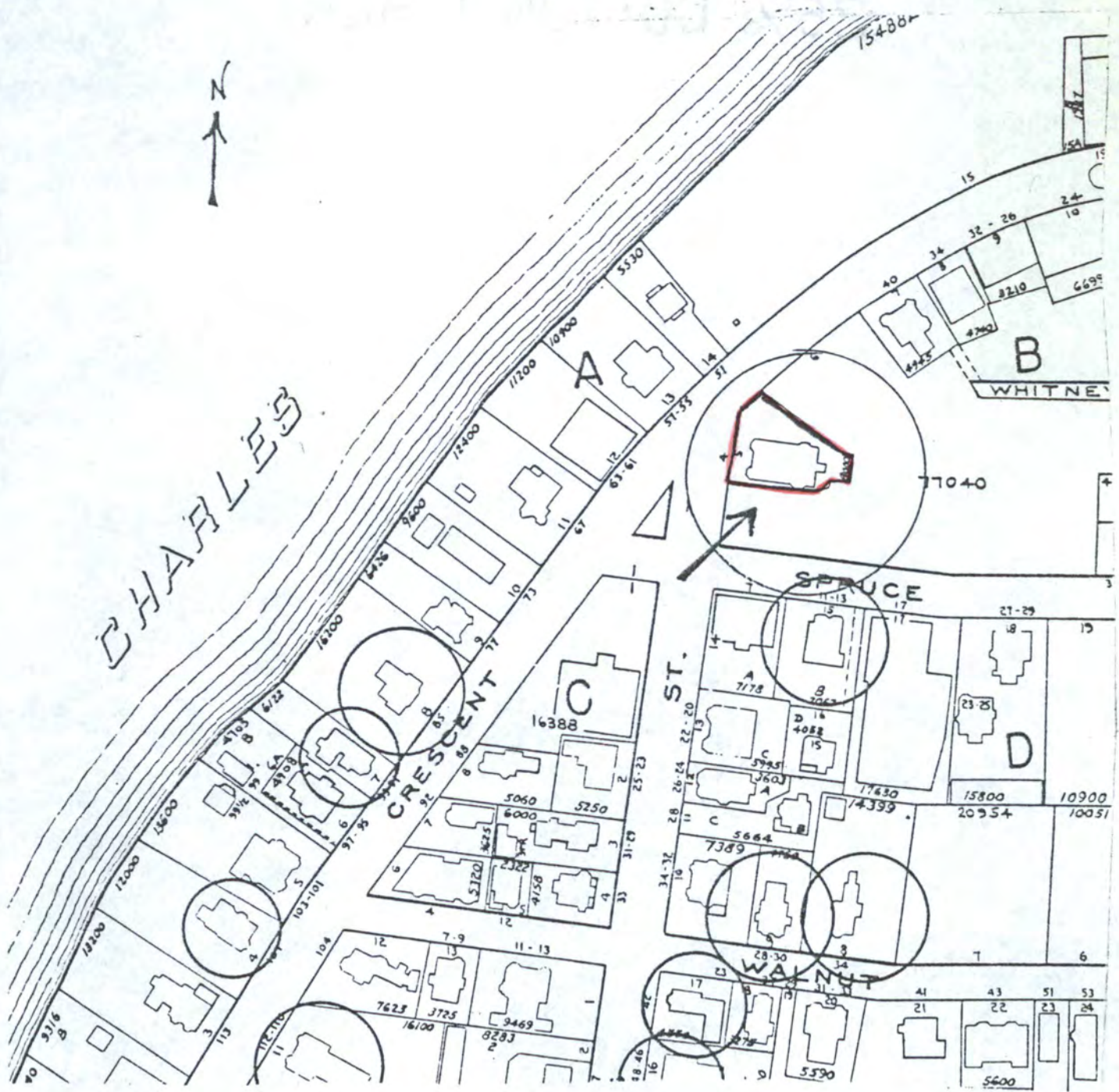
"The Oxford" #26
4 Adams Street
1" = 100'
1975; updated to 1987
Waltham Engineering Dept.

lot #69-12-2



E 670,000





1970 Atlas, City of Waltham
 Compiled by the Waltham
 Engineering Division
 Scale : 1 inch = 140 Feet

Waltham, MA. MRT
 4 Adams st
 "The Oxford"
 4 - B - 5 , #MTC 26

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301