

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
	113

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

Town Stoneham Roll 2:12

Address 136 Elm Street

Historic Name The Almshouse

Original Owner: Town of Stoneham

Present Owner: Town of Stoneham

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

Photo number _____

Use: Present Nursing Home/Senior
Citizens Center

Original Almshouse

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1852

Source local history

Style Greek Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings cast stone barn with cupola
in rear (ca. 1900)

Major alterations (with dates) n/a

Moved no Date n/a

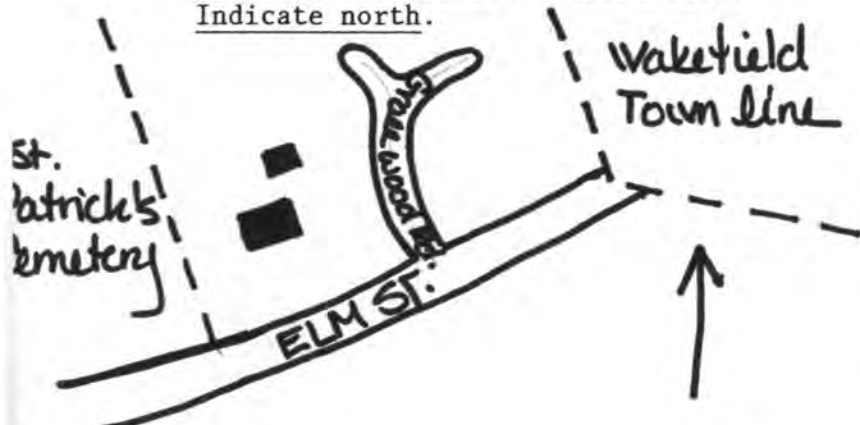
Approx. acreage approx. 4 acres
~~over one acre~~

Setting rural, residential area on
Wakefield town line

UTM: Boston North Quad
19/328410/4706260

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 Candace Jenkins with Carole Zellie

Organization Landscape Research

Date April, 1979

Assessor's Map # untaxed property; no number assigned.

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The Stoneham Almshouse is one of the few intact 19th century poorhouses surviving in the metropolitan Boston area. Built in 1852 as a poorhouse, the Stoneham Almshouse is a clapboarded wood frame structure rising two and a half stories from a granite foundation to a gable roof with deep projecting eaves. Two 19th-century two-story side ells and an ell to the rear append the five-bay-wide, two-bay-deep main block. A 20th-century two-story enclosed porch has been added to the west side ell; within the last 20 years, a one-story shed roofed addition was made on the east elevation. The simple rectangular plan of the building, with end chimneys and a center hall, is conservative for 1852 and reflects a utilitarian approach to the building's function. The simplicity and conservatism of the design is also evident in the overall lack of detailing on the Almshouse. The facade, containing 6/6 sash, features a central entry with a Greek Revival surround of transom and full length sidelights; the shallow gabled door hood over the entrance is a later addition. Also standing on the property is a two-story gable roofed barn constructed of rusticated cast stone blocks, dating from ca. 1920.

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

The Stoneham Almshouse possesses integrity of location, setting, materials and association. It is significant as a rare surviving example of an important 19th-century building type, the poorhouse, and for its associations with the care of the aged and indigent of Stoneham. It meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The Stoneham Almshouse replaced an earlier almshouse. The property was owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Cutter in 1826 and transferred to Cornelius Doyle in 1851. The current structure was built in 1852 on 17 acres of land. Intended to house the "older unfortunates," but not children, the almshouse was enlarged in 1890. The large tract of land was interrupted by 20th century subdivisions, but the entrance road lined with trees evokes its earlier appearance. The building is currently used as a nursing home.

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

Stevens, History of Stoneham, pp. 67,169.

Maps: 1874 Stoneham Hopkins Map.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 2/28/84

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 7

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Stoneham Multiple Resource Area
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Lang, William Bailey, House | Substantive Review
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION | Determined Eligible
Keeper | <u>Ma [Signature]</u> 4/15/84 |
| 2. | Martin-Maxwell Estate | Substantive Review
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION | Determined Eligible
Keeper | <u>Ma [Signature]</u> 4/13/84 |
| 3. | Sweetser, Warren, House | Substantive Review
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION | Determined Eligible
Keeper | <u>Ma [Signature]</u> 4/13/84 |
| 4. | Almshouse | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 4/13/84 |
| 5. | Beard, Padilla, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 4/13/84 |
| 6. | Boston and Main
Railroad Depot | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 4/13/84 |
| 7. | Bottume, John, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 4/13/84 |
| 8. | Brown, C. H., Cottage | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 4/13/84 |
| 9. | Bryant, William, Octagon
House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 4/13/84 |
| 10. | Buck, Charles, House | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers</u> 4/13/84 |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Almshouse (Stoneham MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. FEB 28 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/5/85
Date Due: 3-29-84 - 4-13-84
Action: ACCEPT 4-13-84
 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
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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

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

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

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Alushuse

Starcham M.Rt. Ma

9310



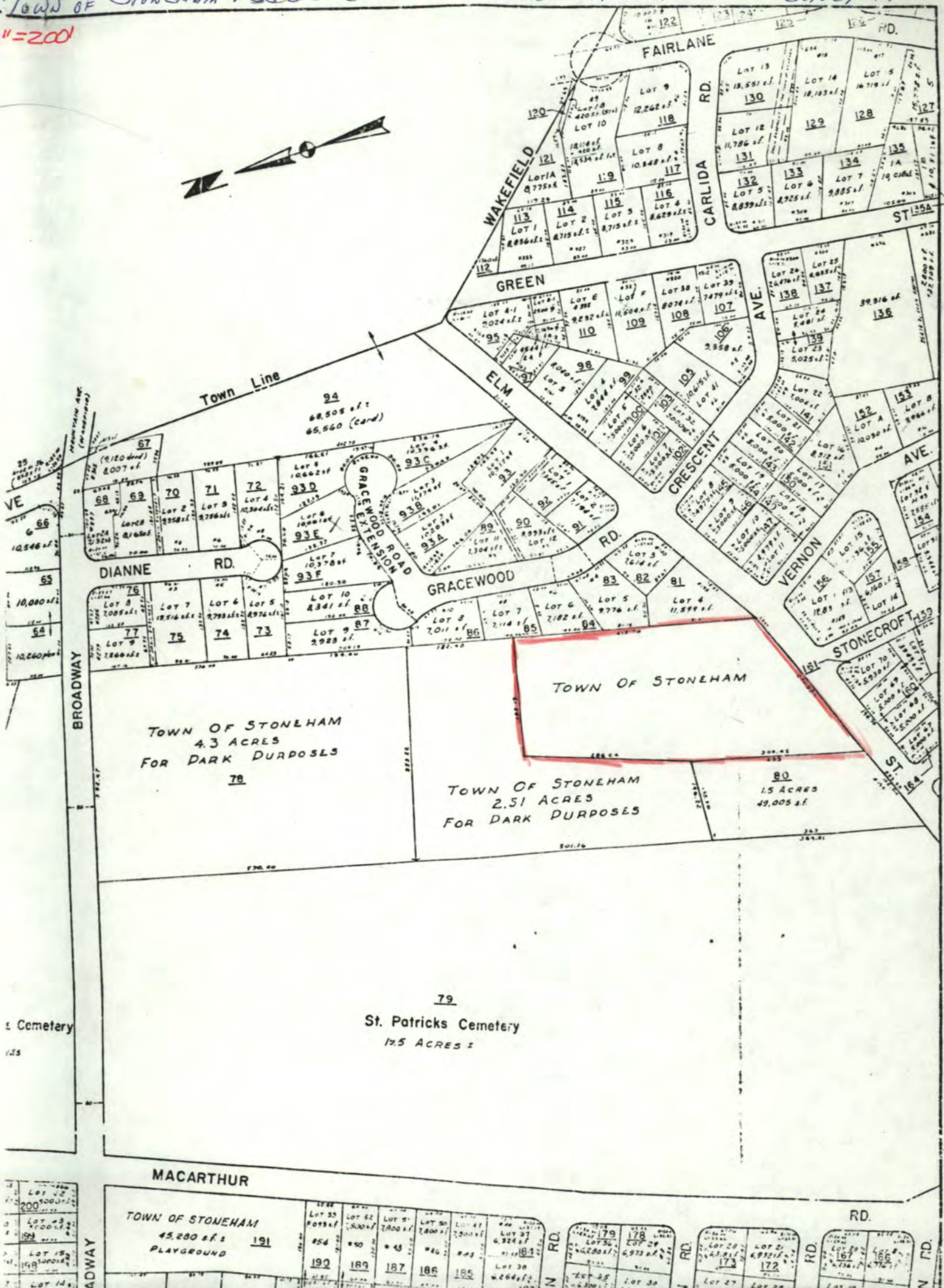
Alms house,

Sturbehan WRA, Ma.

9310

TOWN OF STONEHAM ASSESSOR'S MAP PRESENT DATE INVENTORY 113

1"=200'



TOWN OF STONEHAM
4.3 ACRES
FOR DARK PURPOSES
78

TOWN OF STONEHAM
2.51 ACRES
FOR DARK PURPOSES

80
15 ACRES
49,005 s.f.

79
St. Patricks Cemetery
17.5 ACRES ±

TOWN OF STONEHAM
45,280 s.f. ±
PLAYGROUND
191

Cemetery
1.25

Lot 12
Lot 13
Lot 14
Lot 15
Lot 16

ADWAY

LOT 53
LOT 52
LOT 51
LOT 50
LOT 49
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LOT 3
LOT 2
LOT 1

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: _____ 64000295