

AUG 21 1989

1558

AREA

FORM NO.

54

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

NATIONAL
REGISTER

Town

WALTHAM, MA MRA
Waltham, Massachusetts

is 206 Newton Street

ic Name Potter/O'Brian House

Present private residence

Original private residence

PTION

ca. 1849 - 1854

eed research, 1854 Map

Italianate

ect unknown

ior Wall Fabric brick/wood rear
ell

Outbuildings none -

Alterations (with dates) -

siding on ell (20th century)

tion fair - good

no - Date n/a

ge 13,570 sq. ft. 0.314 70-5-17

ng Situated on rise overlooking

ne St./Newton Street intersection.

ont elevation obscured by dense

ees/underbrush

Recorded by Edward W. Gordon

Organization Waltham Hist. Comm.

Date June, 1986

revised C. Jenkins 2/88

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



UTM REFERENCE 19/316380/4693070

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

#206 Newton Street is one of Waltham's very few pre-20th century masonry houses. It is the only brick Italianate house in Waltham, and more specifically on the South Side. During the mid-19th century, it functioned as a boarding house operated by the Edwin Potter family. From 1874 to the early 1900's, it was the home of a prosperous grocer, James O'Brien. It has strong associations with the South Side prior to its acquisition by Newton, and with its subsequent growth as an enclave of Irish workers. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and meets criteria A and C of the NRHP.

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

#206 Newton Street is the only example of a masonry Italianate house in Waltham. It is situated on a rise overlooking the Pine/Newton Street intersection, in an area of mixed-use residential/commercial structures. It consists of a rectangular, 2-story, 5-bay x 3-bay, main block, and 2-story rear ell. Projecting from its 5-bay center-entrance's main facade is a Colonial Revival porch addition with fluted Doric pilasters on plinths.

The main block is characterized by planar masonry surfaces pierced by standard size windows with simple stone lintels. Raised brickwork piers appear at this house's corners, and off-center on the side wall. Located above the second floor windows are two rows of brick-work dentils. This house is enclosed by a flat roof with deep eaves. The rear ell possesses a handsome front door with arched panes and well-carved floral motifs and cross-forms set in panels.

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

#206 Newton Street ranks as one of the oldest houses on Waltham's South Side. The 1854 map show this house and its rear ell. Middlesex deeds indicate that this house was probably built during the late 1840's. On February 27, 1849, Edwin A. Potter (no occupation listed) purchased this house's lot from Enoch Hyde of Newton, yeoman, for \$1,625.00. This deed mentions "the buildings thereon" - perhaps indicating the existence of 206 Newton Street on the same day of the Hyde/Potter transaction. Enoch Hyde passed the property to Charles Potter. The 1871/1872 Waltham/Watertown Directories indicate that the house was operated for a time as a boarding house, run by Edwin Potter's widow, Sarah. In addition to Sarah and the boarders, this house was occupied by Fred C. Potter, who worked at "L.Hall's, Moody Street". It is likely that this house's boarders were drawn from the nearby Newton Chymical Plant. The demise of this company in 1872, may explain why Sarah Potter sold this house to James O'Brien on May 14, 1874.

James O'Brien was a grocer. He was a partner in O'Brien and Holloran (Martin Holloran). Their store was located at Cedar, corner of Oak Street. The house is located in the South Side's chemistry neighborhood. Mid-late

CONT

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps/Atlases 1836, 1854, 1874, 1881, 1883, 1886, 1898, 1900, 1911, 1915
Middlesex Deeds
Waltham/Watertown Directory, 1872, 1884, 1898

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, 206 Newton Street, continued

19th century maps and atlases indicate that the majority of the surrounding properties were owned by the Newton "Chymical" Company. As early as 1825, a stock company called the Newton Chymical Company was organized under the leadership of Patrick Tracy Jackson. Buildings were erected on the west side of Newton Street in what would later become the South Side section of Waltham. This company manufactured sulphuric and bleaching acid. The company was discontinued in 1872; its buildings were taken down and the land sold for house lots. The sale of # 206 Newton Street to James E. O'Brien reflects in microcosm - the shifting fortunes of this area following the Newton Chymical Company's demise. After 1872, this neighborhood became increasingly Irish, while the neighborhood to the west of Moody Street remained overwhelmingly Protestant. Late 19th century atlases also indicate that by 1851, a spur of the Boston and Fitchburg Railroad had been set out though the South Side, just to the south of this house. The South Side was purchased from Newton, by Waltham in 1849.

The South Side is a 600 acre area bordering on both Newton and the Charles River. It comprises almost one fifteenth of Waltham's current area, where most of the city's territory lies - this area has been legally part of Waltham since being purchased from Newton in 1849. As early as 1761-1762, a bridge linking the north and south sides (Waltham and Newton) was built at the site of the present Newton Street Bridge. Little more than ten years after the Revolutionary War ended, three mill-dams connected the river's northern and southern banks. One, possibly the earliest on the river, apparently started up mill operation in 1779, on Newton-side land owned by David Bemis and Dr. Enos Summers. Their 18th century industrial ventures included The Boston Manufacturing Company and the Newton Chymical Company (organized during the 1820's). At the time of the South Side's annexation to Waltham in 1849, the South Side consisted of only 170 people and 35 buildings - the Potter O'Brien House at 206 Newton Street, probably being counted among the buildings. By that time the Newton Chymical Co's plant consisted of low slung wooden factory buildings which spread out over almost a quarter of its initial acreage in the South Side's eastern section.



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
71. Potter--O'Brien House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
72. Prospect House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
73. Robbins, Royal E., School Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
74. Sanderson, John, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
75. Sanderson, Nathan, I, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
76. Sanderson, Nathan, II, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
77. Sanderson--Clark Farmhouse Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
78. Smith, Marshall, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
79. Smith, Perez, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
80. St. Charles Borromeo Church Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Potter--O'Brian House
NAME:

MULTIPLE Waltham MRA
NAME:

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: 89001538

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 _____



Patterson O'Brien House

Mrs. Weltham M.

Mt. ~~Sty~~ Sty

206 Newton St.



Patten--O'Brien house

note # 54

Waltham MA - MRA

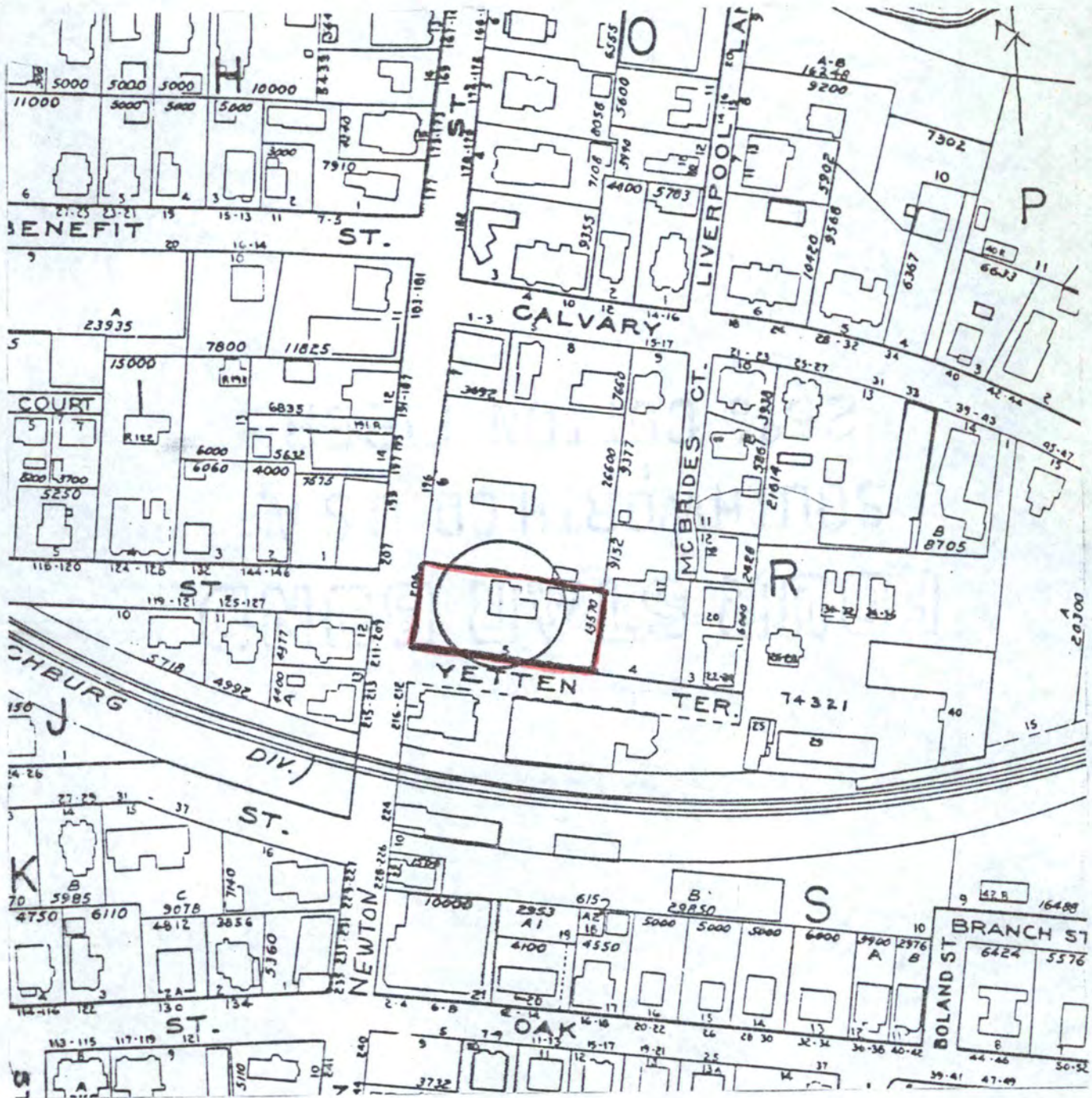
206 NEWTON ST



PATER-CRIBBAGE HOUSE

MHC # 54

206 NEWTON ST
WALTHAM, MA 01894



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

Waltham, Massachusetts MRA
 206 Newton Street
 O'Brien House
 3-R-5 MHC 54

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301