

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
	1688

Newton, Mass. MRA
Town Newton (Newton Corner)

Address 93 Bellevue Street

Historic Name Charles Riley House

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Use: Present dwelling

Original dwelling

DESCRIPTION

Date 1881

Source Water Records

Style Neo-Classical

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric buff brick & stone

Outbuildings Carriage house at 109

Bellevue; Greenhouse

Major Alterations (with dates) pre-1900-tower

caps removed, porte-cochere added, brick cladding. Pre-1917 wings added
Condition Excellent

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

(SEE ATTACHED MAP)

Moved no Date _____
Acreage house: 46460' sq. (3.3 acres)
carriagehouse: 98410' sq.
Setting suburban estate on expansive grounds

UTM REFERENCE 19.319560.4690920

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON, MASS.

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by K. Hatch

Organization Newton Hist. Comm.

Date 3/10/77; rev. by H. White 3/86

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Riley House is one of Newton's best examples of the Neo-Classical mode of architecture which emerged at the turn-of-the-century, and exemplifies the progressiveness of early twentieth century design; it therefore meets Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The Riley House is also one of the finest remaining examples of the lavish suburban estates built by wealthy Boston businessmen at the turn-of-the-century in Newton Corner; it therefore meets Criterion A of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

The core of the Riley House is a dwelling built in the late 1870s by Job Turner, a Boston businessman. Charles Riley bought the house ca.1888, when it had a hip roof and full-height facade bays with steep pyramidal roofs. Shortly before 1900 Riley removed the tower-like pyramidal caps, built a porte-cochere, and clad the original house in cream-colored brick and stone, creating a decidedly Neo-Classical house. This mode of architecture was a response to the recognized need for a new, appropriately 20th century architecture. It rejected the picturesque qualities and abundant ornament of the Queen Anne style, and the dependence on historical models of the Georgian Revival.

The Riley House is one of Newton's finest examples of the Neo-Classical movement. The design is characterized by its overall geometry and the

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

David B. Jewett owned a large landscaped lot on this prominent hillside site during the 1870s, but apparently never built a structure here. The hillside is still known as Mount Ida, and is one of the area's major physical features, separating it from Newton Centre to the south.

The core of the current house was built during the late 1870s, toward the end of Newton Corner's initial period of growth, and at a time when Boston commuters continued to build permanent homes in the area. Mount Ida was neighborhood favored by the wealthy class and a number of large estates once dotted the area. Charles Riley, who bought and extensively remodelled this house, was a wealthy manufacturer of cotton machinery. This house was inherited by his daughter, Mabel Louise Riley, after his death.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Atlases - 1907, 1895, 1886, 1874.
City Directories - 1899, 1881.
O.H. Bailey. View of Newton, Mass. (1878)
Newton Graphic Publ. Co. Newton, The Garden City. (1902), p. 48.
" " " Beautiful Newton, (1917), pp.148, 188.
MF Sweetser, King's Handbook of Newton (1889), pp. 80,81.
City of Newton, Water Dept. Records. 1881, enlarged 1888.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newton(Newton Corner)	Form No: 1688
Property Name: Charles Riley House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Architectural Significance:

subordination of architectural ornament. The blocky, upright composition is capped by a hip roof. The light color of the brick emphasizes the building's geometric qualities, as do the smooth, wide expanses of wall surface devoid of ornamentation. The banks of windows on the ground floor are a progressive 20th century feature designed to increase interior light. Although the entrance is made up of classical elements, the proportions and details are freely interpreted.

A companion building is the five-bay carriage house (109 Bellevue Street) which has been converted to residential condominiums.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 7/22/86

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Newton MRA
State Middlesex County, MA

Nomination/Type of Review

101. Rawson Estate

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Date/Signature

Melores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

102. Richards, James Lorin, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

103. Riley, Charles, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

104. Sacco--Pettee Machine Shops

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 12/23/86

Attest

105. Salisbury, Jonas, House
62 Walnut ParkEntered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

106. Salisbury, Jonas, House
85 Langley Rd.Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

107. Silver Lake Cordage Company

Substantive Review Determined Eligible

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

for Keeper

Patricia Anderson 9/4/86

Attest

Beth H. Savage 9/4/86

108. Simpson House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

109. Smith, S. Curtis, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

110. Smith--Peterson House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

86001872

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Riley, Charles, House (Newton MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

JUL 23 1986

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87

Date Due: 8/21/86 - 9/6/86

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 9-4-86

☐ 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	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

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 ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ 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 _____

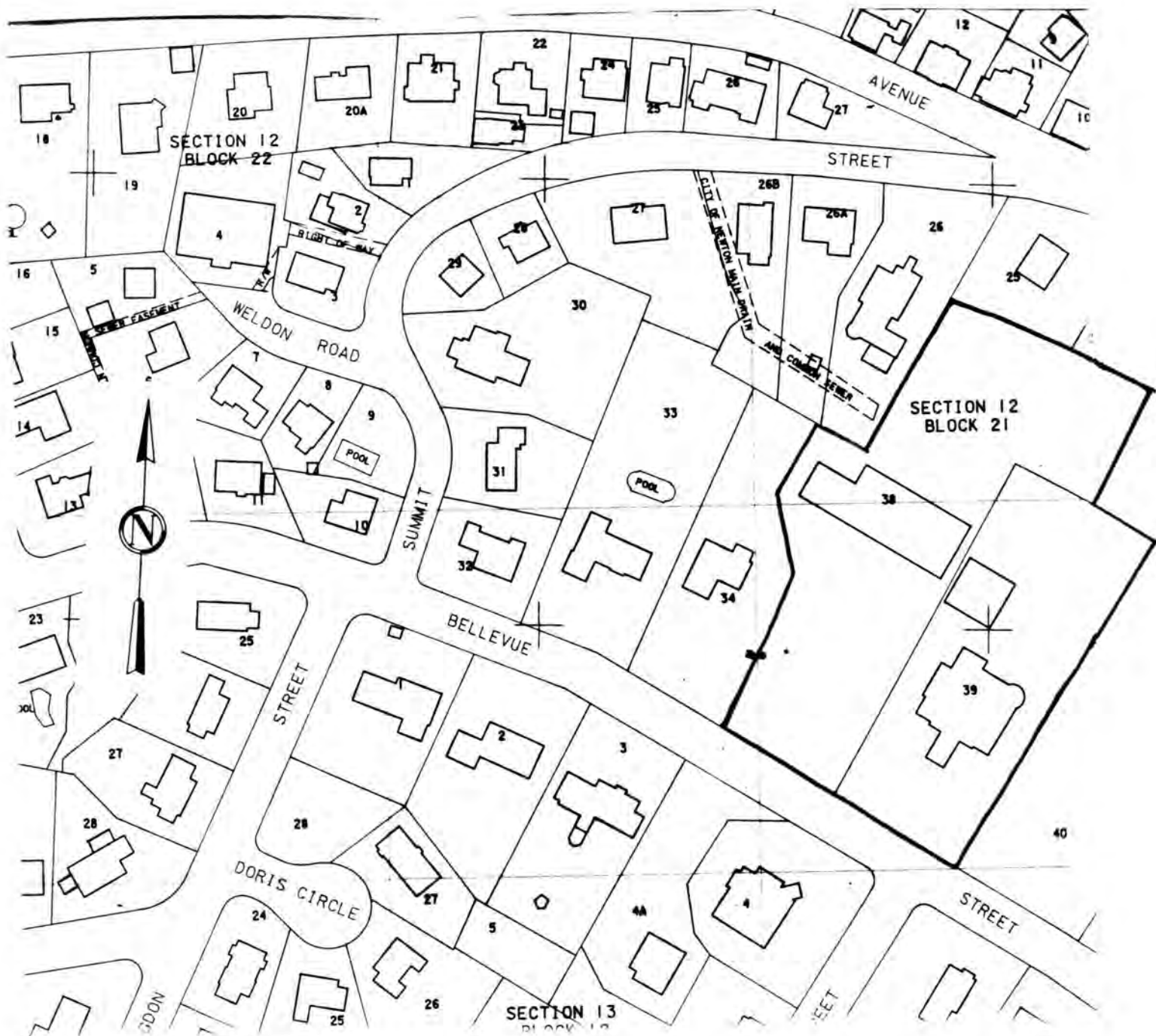
Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Riley, Charles, Heise

Newton, Mass. MRA

93 Bellevue St, Newton Corner
- 77-A-13 (14) -



City of Newton Assessor's Maps. Sheet 33
Metric Series. 1979
Scale: UTM grid line interval = 100 meters (328 feet)

Newton, Mass. M.R.A.
93 Bellevue Street, Newton Corner
99-109 Bellevue Street, Newton Corner
Riley Estate
12-21-39, 12-21-38 A-E