

1577

AUG 21 1989

AREA

FORM NO.

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|  | 30 |
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Town Waltham, MA

Address 120 Crescent St.

Historic Name Henry N. Fisher House

Use: Present private residence

Original "

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

DESCRIPTION

Date 1881-1886

Source maps, atlases, deed research

Style Queen Anne

Architect -- unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboards and shingles

Outbuildings garage NC

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 sheet.*

Major Alterations (with dates) 1st floor bow front dining room added during early 1900's  
Side porch enclosed (n.d.)

Condition excellent

Moved no -- Date n/a --

Acreage 13,459 sq. ft. OJA 68-18-6

Setting situated on a large corner lot with ample, well maintained side lawn. Key components in Crescent St's collection of well crafted Victorian houses

UTM REFERENCE 19/315410/4693000

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Ed Goron

Organization Waltham Historical Comm.

Date July, 1986

### NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Henry N. Fisher House is part of Crescent St's collection of well-crafted and well-detailed Queen Anne Houses. Built c.1881-1886, this house was for many years the residence of Henry N. Fisher, Mayor of Waltham (mid 1880's-late 1880s), Foreman of an American Watch Co. department, President of the Waltham National Bank and President of the Northwestern Investment Co. The construction of this house is also representative of the South Side's development by the Waltham Improvement Co. in the second half of the 19th century. The Fisher House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and meets criteria A, B, 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.

#120 Crescent possesses the irregular plan and well-crafted encircling verandah of a Queen Anne house. Its side hall plan, octagonal bay and gable roof with return eaves strikes an Italianate note. Particularly noteworthy is the encircling verandah with turned porch posts, Chinese lattice work railings, spool work transom and sunburst motif at the porch pediment. Projecting from the north wall is an unusual 1-story bow front that was added during the early 1900s. This house's interior possesses handsome marble fireplaces, well executed cornice moldings and, above all, fine wood work--including Tiger maple(?) parlor doors, wainscoting, stair rails, etc. The rooms at the rear of the house including the former summer kitchen have been reworked. This house looks like what it is--the well executed home of a former Waltham mayor.

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

#120 Crescent St. was built at some point between 1881-1886 although its original occupant, Henry N. Fisher, had owned this lot since 1871. He purchased #120 Crescent St.'s land from the American Watch Co. on Dec. 27, 1871 for \$1202.74. Although the 1880 Waltham Directory lists Fisher as living at the corner of Crescent St. and Chestnut St., the 1881 Birdseye view map of Waltham shows this house's lot as vacant. This house first appears on the 1886 map.

This house has significant historical associations with Henry N. Fisher. He was born in New Hampshire in 1844 and came to work at the watch factory before the Civil War. During the Civil War he enlisted in the 35th Massachusetts Regiment. He was severely wounded at the Battle of Antietam in September 1862. Henry N. Fisher returned to the American Watch Co. where for many years he was foreman of the escape department.

On June 1, 1872, George F. Ballou, John E. Whitcomb and Henry N. Fisher, all employed at the Watch Factory began the manufacture of watchmaker's lathes at 7 Province Court, Boston. In November, 1873, the business carried out under the name of Ballou, Whitcomb and Co. moved to Waltham, MA. The company was located on Felton St. Judging by early 1880's directories, Fisher returned to work at the watch factory. At that time he seems also to have been employed at W.L. Fisher Co.--"periodicals, fancy goods, etc." Mr. Fisher served four one year terms as mayor of Waltham (1885-1889). By 1895 he was the president of the Northwestern Investment Co., based at 92 State St., Boston. For many years he was a vice president and later president of the Waltham National Bank. In addition he figured prominently in local Masonic circles. Henry N. Fisher died in 1916--in that year Phillip

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Waltham Maps and Atlases--1854, 1874, 1881, 1886, 1898, 1900
- Waltham Directories--late 19th c.
- "Waltham Souvenir"--1895
- D.H. Hurd's History of Middlesex County--1890

120 Crescent Street (cont'd)

#### HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

and Grace Burke purchased this house--their son Hal Burke continues to own this house. 120 Crescent St.'s land is part of the crescent-shaped area west of Moody St. that was purchased by the Boston Watch Co.-related Waltham Improvement Co. (WIC) in 1854. The 160 acre tract had been the old Bemis Farm. Waltham's South Side had been purchased from Newton in 1849. The WIC began to layout streets (which could now be gaslit), transforming the remainder of its one-sixth portion of the South Side by its use of both a grid system and restrictive covenants. In force until the 1880's, these covenants established the predominantly residential and protestant character of the WIC's holdings in the western section of the South Side. This company's exclusion of both the "foreign born" and "noisy, nauseous and offensive trade" was reinforced in 1858 when it merged with the watch company, which only hired the Protestant and "native born" for several decades.

The transformation of the South Side really got underway during the next quarter century, following the patterns established earlier. Within three or four years of the watch company's arrival, Crescent Street had seventeen houses. By the early 1890's Crescent St. was lined--particularly along the river side--with the substantial, often elaborately detailed, mansard and Queen Anne house of the American Waltham Watch Company's executives and department foremen.

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

- 21. Colburn, Gilbert, House Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper *Aelores Byers* 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 22. Company F State Armory Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper *Aelores Byers* 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 23. Dow, Lenoir, House Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper *Aelores Byers* 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- see* 24. Dunbar--Stearns House Substantive Review *for* Keeper *Beth L. Savage* 3/9/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 25. East Main Street Historic District Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper *Aelores Byers* 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 26. Eastern Middlesex County Second District Court Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper *Aelores Byers* 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- see* 27. First Congregational Church Substantive Review *for* Keeper *Beth L. Savage* 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- see* 28. First Parish Church Substantive Review *for* Keeper *Beth L. Savage* 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 29. Fisher, Henry N., House Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper *Aelores Byers* 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 30. Fiske, Elijah, House Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper *Aelores Byers* 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Fisher, Henry N., 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: 89001577

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

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



120 Crescent St

Fisher, Henry N., House

MHC #30

Waltham. Mt WMA



Fisher, Harry N., House

MHC # 30

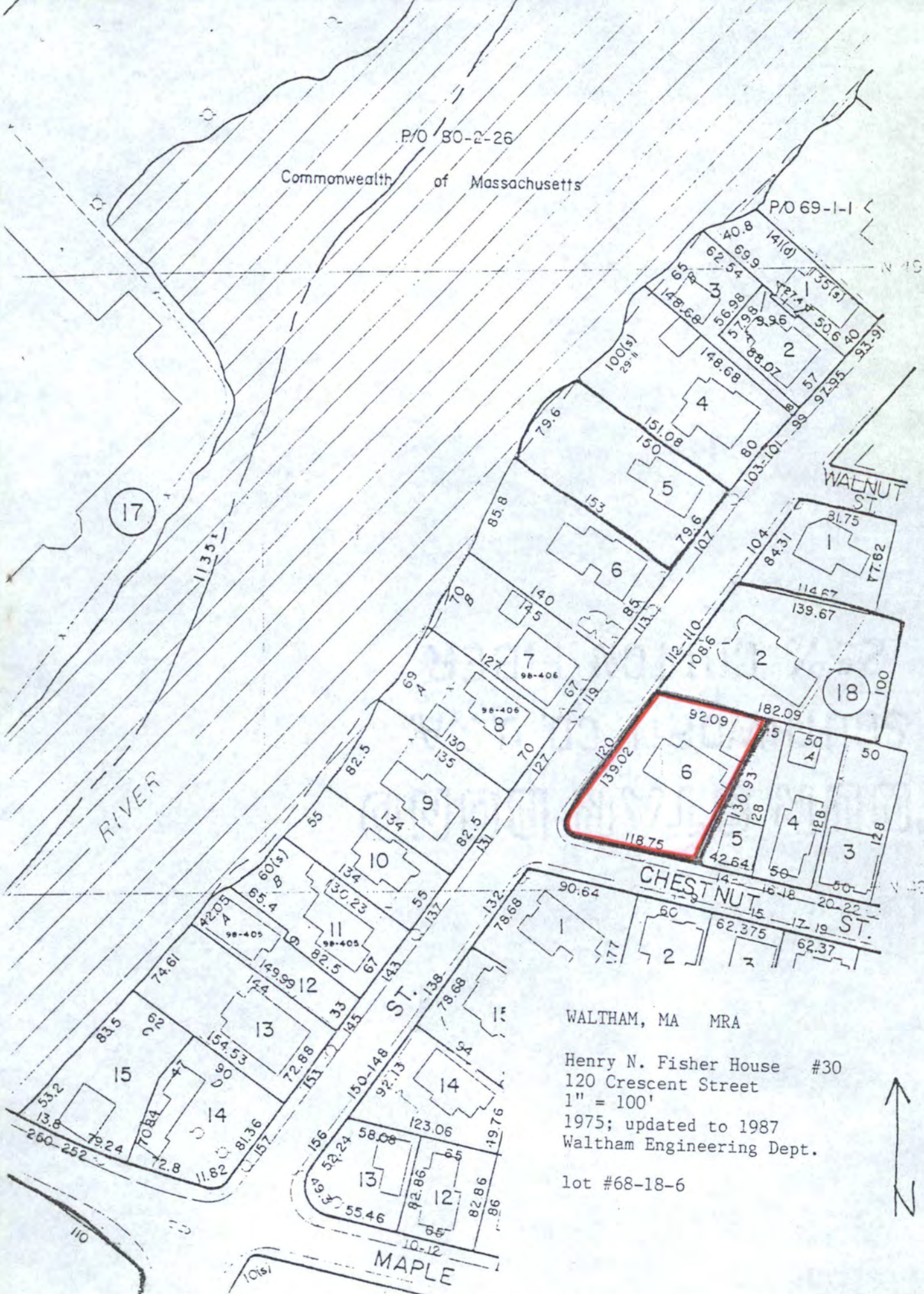
Waltham, MA MRA  
120 Crescent St.



Fisher, Harry N., Hax  
MTC #30  
Waltham, Ma MTA  
120 Crescent St.

P/O 80-2-26  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

P/O 69-1-1  
N 199,500

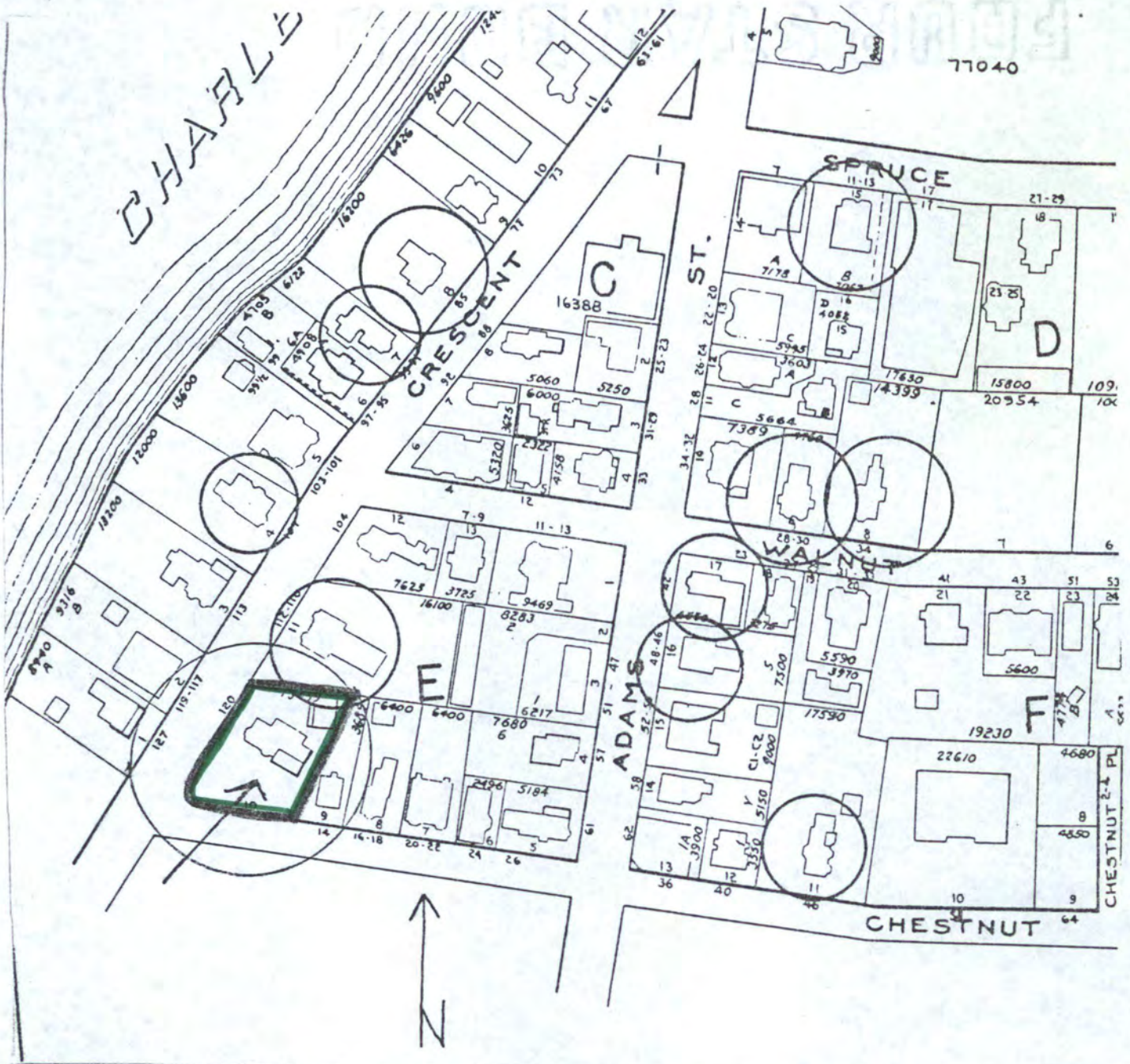


WALTHAM, MA MRA

Henry N. Fisher House #30  
120 Crescent Street  
1" = 100'  
1975; updated to 1987  
Waltham Engineering Dept.

lot #68-18-6





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

WALTHAM, MA. MRA  
 120 Crescent St  
 H.N. Fisher House  
 A - E - 10, MHC #30

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301