

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
	63/277-2

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

Photo number _____

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 Leslie Larkin/Carla Benka
Organization Brookline Historical Commission
Date May 1980; update May, 1985

Town Brookline MRA

Address 155 Reservoir Road

Historic Name NA

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1830-44

Source tax lists

Style Greek Revival

Architect information not available

Exterior wall fabric asbestos shingle

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) Piazza partially enclosed for new bath (6' x 9') in 1950

Moved From Boylston St. Date 1920

Approx. acreage 21,645 sq. ft.

Setting In residential neighborhood set on hill, setback similar to other houses in area

(Staple additional sheets here) Newton Quadrangle
UTM Reference: 19/322860/4667724

Map # 62

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

155 Reservoir Road was designed in the Greek Revival style with a low pitched gable roof, elaborate cornice, 6/6 windows, front door with sidelights, and pilastered cornerboards. The entry porch is less than full height and is supported by fluted doric columns. Set with its gable end facing the street, the house has a classic closed pediment as well as pedimented windowheads. Although sided with asbestos shingles, 155 Reservoir Road has retained much of its original detailing. In age and size, it is similar to other Greek Revival homes in Brookline, most of which also sit gable end to the street and approximately half of which have entry porches attached to the gable end.

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

This house does not appear on the 1830 map of Brookline, but it is shown on the 1844 map, at its original location at the corner of Boylston Street, and the present Reservoir Rd. Attribution of the original ownership of the house stems from the fact that Daniel Pierce bought a large parcel of land at that location from the hon. Jonathan Mason in 1822-23, and that Reservoir Road was called Pierce's Lane when this was the only house on or near its. Little is known about Pierce, as records of that time are scanty, * As early as 1812 he was taxed \$20.80 for real estate, and by 1837 he was taxed only \$14.84, having disposed of some of his property. In 1844 Fierce had a house on the present Chestnut Hill Ave., - one that is not shown on the 1830 map, and this house was owned by Simon and John W. Warren, sons of John Warren (see 305 Warren St.). In 1837 the Warren brothers paid only a poll tax, as they were living on Warren St. Both Warrens were farmers and married sisters, Simon marrying Sarah Calfe in 1847 and John White Warren marrying her sister Almiera the following year. It is not clear whether the brothers actually lived in this house (at its former location) or only farmed the land there. Their father died in 1847, at which time his farm on Warren St. went to their younger brother Charles. The 1851 tax list, the first available after 1837, shows that Reservoir Road was now called Warren Ave., that John and Simon Warren still owned this house and its land jointly, and that John also owned a house and land on the east side of Reservoir Rd., about halfway to the town line. In 1855 the map shows this house rented to C. H. Hawes, but Simon Warren probably still farmed the land. The next year John W. Warren became the owner of the present 305 Warren St., and Simon built

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

Maps - 1830, 1844, 1855
Atlases - 1874, 1884, 1919, 1927
Tax lists - 1812, 1826, 1837, 1861; 1851-52
Vital Records of Brookline, MA
Jones, Theodore, Land Ownership in Brookline
Little, Nina Fletcher, Some Old Brookline Houses
Plan, Engineering Department, :/13/D/33, 1854

* except that he married Lydia Humphreys of Dorchester in 1808, and later, after her death, Nancy Dickerman, and had a son, Jonathan Mason Pierce, and five daughters.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Brookline

Form No:

63
277/2

Property Name: 155 Reservoir Rd.

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

his house next door at 285 Warren St. between 1855-58. The 1861 tax list shows that Simon Warren, by then the sole owner of this house, had sold it that year to Thomas W. Nickerson, and that John W. Warren had sold his house on Reservoir Rd. to Louise Atwell, but was renting 11 acres on the land from Mrs. Sybil Penniman, as it is clear that the Warren brothers continued to farm here after they had sold their houses, each with about 3 acres of land, retaining most of the acreage for themselves.

In 1874, the house and stable at the corner of Boylston Street and Reservoir Rd. belonged to R. S. Bay, and by 1884 to John S. Wright, who also owned the former J. W. Warren place on Reservoir Road, since demolished. In 1919, the year before it was moved, its address was 855 Boylston Street and it was the property of the Chestnut Hill Co., which owned the Chestnut Hill Golf Club there. The next year Carroll C. O'Neill bought the house and moved it to its present location.

Its design employs the classic closed pediment and wide architrave of the Greek Revival style, as well as pediment shaped window heads, and the house is set with its gable end to the street. The porch, with Doric columns, extends across the front of the house and around the side.

This house meets NR criteria A and C, reflecting the agrarian character of its neighborhood during the 19th century and being a fine and highly unusual example, for this area, of the Greek Revival style, retaining such original features as the elaborate cornice, front door with sidelights, pilastered cornerboards and fluted doric columns supporting the entry porch.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Brookline MRA
State MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

41. House at
(5 Lincoln Rd.)

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

42. House at
(12--16 Corey Rd.)

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

43. House at
(25 Stanton Rd.)

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

44. House at
(38--40 Webster Pl.)

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

45. House at
(44 Linden St.)

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

46. House at
(44 Stanton Rd.)

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

47. House at
(83 Penniman Pl.)

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

48. House at
(89 Rawson Rd. &
86 Colburne Crescent)

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

49. House at
(105 Marion St.)

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

50. House at
(155 Reservoir Rd.)

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

House (Brookline MRA) *(155 Reservoir Rd)*
Norfolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. SEP 4 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 10/3/85 - 10/19/85
Action: ACCEPT 10-17-85
RETURN
REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Entered in the
National Register

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: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



155 Reservoir Rd

G/85

Brookline (Ma) MRA



155 Reservoir Rd

6/85

Brookline (Ma) MRA

155 Reservoir Rd (63/277-2)

Brookline (Ma) MRA
Town of Brookline Map Jan 81
Scale 1/2" = 200 ft.

