

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA FORM NO.

185

CH-42

Newton, Mass. M.R.A.
Town Newton (Newton Corner)

Address 32 Farlow RoadHistoric Name Smith-Peterson 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 dwellingOriginal dwelling

DESCRIPTION

Date 1902Source Water Dept. RecordsStyle Georgian RevivalArchitect unknownExterior Wall Fabric clapboardOutbuildings garage

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

Major Alterations (with dates) noneCondition Excellent

(SEE ATTACHED MAP)

Moved no Date _____Acreage 57,376⁴⁶ sq. (1.32 acres)Setting Suburban estate on expansive grounds.UTM REFERENCE 19.320520.4690400USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON, MASS.SCALE 1:25,000Recorded by Arch. Pres. Assoc.Organization Newton Historical Comm.Date 5/83; rev. by H. White 3/86

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Smith-Peterson House represents the highest expression of the Georgian Revival style in Newton and therefore meets Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

By far the largest group of early twentieth century houses in Newton were designed in the Georgian Revival manner. This preference corresponds to the widespread acceptance of the style throughout Greater Boston. The Smith-Peterson House exemplifies the disciplined character of the prototype, and imitates the Neo-Classical phase of Georgian architecture which produced such notable structures as Thomas Jefferson's Virginia State Capitol and Monticello during the eighteenth century.

The Smith-Peterson House is a 2½-story rectangular plan structure with a hip roof and flanking two-story wings. The focal point of the design is the monumental entrance portico with Scammozzi capitals and an oculus in the pediment. A full-height elliptical bay projects

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

The Smith-Peterson House was built on land which was formerly part of the large estate of John S. Farlow, a prominent city resident and benefactor. Farlow amassed a fortune in the China trade. He contributed generously to the Newton Free Library, the Newton Cemetery, and the city's park system. Nearby Farlow Park was given by him to the city, and Farlow Road takes its name from him. During the 1890s Farlow began to develop his property by laying out new roads and selling lots. The Smith-Peterson house was built near the site of Farlow's own residence, which has been demolished.

Dr. Marius Smith-Peterson, an occupant of this house, was a renowned orthopedic surgeon.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Atlas-1907 Frank M. Sheldon
1895 Land of John S. Farlow

Directory 1907 Frank M. Sheldon, Boston business address

Jackson Homestead vertical files.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Newton Corner

Form No:

CH-42

Property Name: Smith-Peterson House

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

Architectural Significance:

into the space beneath the portico. Other notable details include the alternating wood quoins and entrance with its leaded glass fanlight and half-sidelights.

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 7/23/86

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

DOE 107. Silver Lake Cordage Company

Substantive Review Determined Eligible

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

for Keeper

Patricia Anderson 9/4/86

Attest

Bert 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

86001882

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Smith-Peterson House (Newton MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

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

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: JUL 23 1986
Date Due: 8/21/86 - 9/6/86
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 9-4-86
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

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	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	

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: _____



Smith - Petersen House

APR 1986

Newton, Mass. MRA

- 32 Farlow Rd, Newton Corner -
K-17 (10)

