

JAN 02 1990

36

AREA

Newton, MA-MRA  
FORM NO.

A-03

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116Town Newton (Auburndale)Address 375 Auburn StreetHistoric Name Plummer Memorial LibraryPhoto (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and  
white) Indicate address of  
property on back of photo.  
Staple to left side of form.Use: Present libraryOriginal same

## DESCRIPTION

Date 1927Source Newton Graphic 4/29/27Style Tudor RevivalArchitect Smith & WalkerExterior Wall Fabric brickOutbuildings noneSketch 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) \_\_\_\_\_

childrens' wing-1948Condition excellent

see attached map

Moved no Date n/aAcreage 18,926 sq.ft. C.43ASetting southwestern edge of Auburndalevillage centerUTM REFERENCE 19/314680 /4690460USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTONSCALE 1:25000Recorded by Candace Jenkins/Susan AbeleOrganization Newton Historical Comm.Date 3/1987; rev. 3/1988

**NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

Auburndale's Plummer Memorial Library possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as one of five branch libraries constructed in Newton's village centers between 1925 and 1939 (see WN-J, 1925; NC-040, 1927; W-0101, 1929; NV-G, 1938), reflecting the community's growing size and stature. It is also a well designed example of the Tudor Revival style as applied to the small branch library building type. It thus meets criteria A & C of the NRHP.

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

The Plummer Memorial Library was designed in the Tudor Revival style by the firm of Smith & Walker in 1927. It is constructed of brick laid up in English bond and is trimmed with limestone. Designed on an L-plan, it rises 1 1/2 stories to a slate gable roof with decorative half-timbering in the gable ends. A chimney stack rises along the north gable end and a bay window lights the south end. The entry is located at the corner of the L in a projecting gabled porch with buttresses and other stone trim. Its position is signaled by placement of a cupola directly above on the roof ridge. Small pane windows are grouped within heavy stone surrounds and mullions. The building remains in excellent condition, altered only by a plate glass replacement door and a one story children's wing to the rear.

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

Plans to build a branch library in Auburndale were begun in the early 20s but the cornerstone for the new building was not laid until July 1927. Land for the building was donated by the Plummer family and the city, which added the old fire station lot to the library site. The sum of \$47,000 was raised by the community to construct the library, which was one of five built and donated to the city, between 1925 and 1939.

The building was designed by Smith and Walker, Architects, of Boston, in conjunction with E. C. Redstone. A children's room was planned in 1928 but not added until 1948. It was designed by Edgar T. P. Walker, one of the original architects. Copies of the original plans, along with other historical data, were among the many items deposited in the cornerstone.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Building Records 375 Auburn Street  
Report of the Newton Free Library 1925  
*Newton Graphic* 5/29/27, 7/22/27

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Newton MRA  
State Middlesex County, MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

151. Luke, Arthur F., House **Entered in the  
National Register**

Keeper Melrose Byers 2/16/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

152. Newton Catholic High School  
**Substantive Review**

Keeper Betty L. Savage 02-16-90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

153. Newton Centre Branch Library  
**Substantive Review**

Keeper Betty L. Savage 02-16-90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

154. Newton City Hall and War Memorial  
**Substantive Review**

Keeper Betty L. Savage 02-16-90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

155. Noves, Charles W., House  
**Entered in the  
National Register**

Keeper Melrose Byers 2/16/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

156. Pierce, F. Lincoln, Houses  
**Entered in the  
National Register**

Keeper Melrose Byers 2/16/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

157. Plummer Memorial Library  
**Entered in the  
National Register**

Keeper Melrose Byers 2/16/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

158. Riverside Concrete Company--Lamont's  
Market  
**Entered in the  
National Register**

Keeper Melrose Byers 2/16/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

159. Sawyer, C. A., House (Second)  
**Entered in the  
National Register**

Keeper Melrose Byers 2/16/90

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

160. Schraft, George F., House  
**Substantive Review**

Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**  
TO: OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS H.D.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Plummer Memorial Library

MULTIPLE NAME: Newton MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 1/02/90      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/16/90  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/02/90      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/16/90  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000036

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    2/16/90 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  
 UTM's       boundary justification

---

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

---

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH  
1000 W. 10th St.  
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84119  
TEL. 533-1111

Plümer Memorial Library  
375 Auburn St.  
Newton, MA

Newton, MA-MRA

C. Jenkins

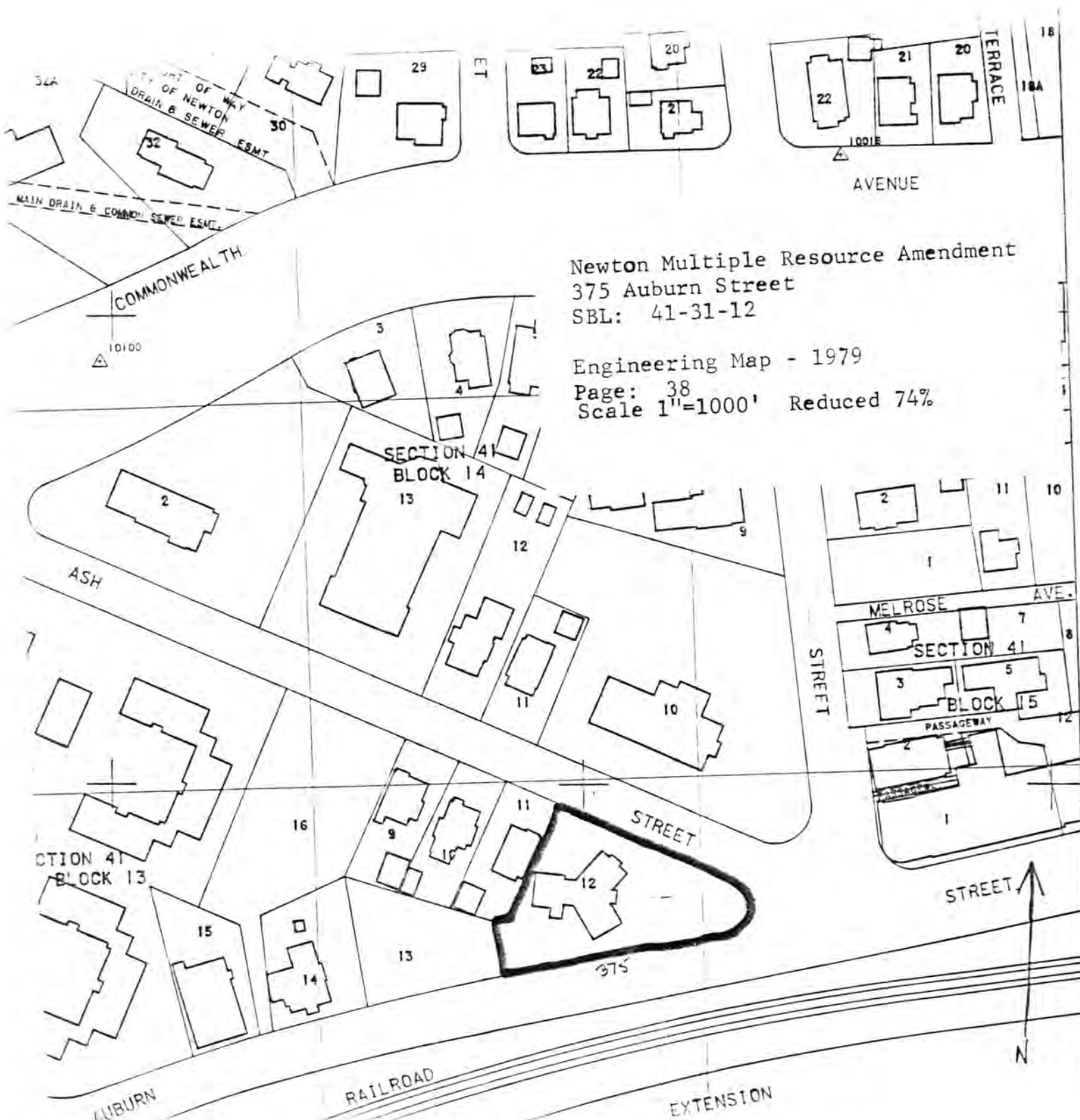
1/87

neg. @ Jackson Homestead

view - west

A. 03

87-4-32



Newton Multiple Resource Amendment  
 375 Auburn Street  
 SBL: 41-31-12

Engineering Map - 1979  
 Page: 38  
 Scale 1"=1000' Reduced 74%