

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

M	NC-640s, NJ-278
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Newton, Mass. MRA

Town Newton (Newton Centre)

Name of Area (if any) _____

Sumner & Gibbs Streets Historic Distri

Present Use residentialGeneral Date or Period 1860-1900General Condition Very GoodAcreage 5.2 acresRecorded by Harriet WhiteOrganization Newton Historical Comm.Date March, 1986

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black
& white). Indicate on back
of each photo street addresses
for buildings shown. Staple to
left side of form.

Sketch Map. Draw a general map of the
area indicating properties within it.
Number each property for which individual
inventory forms have been completed.
Label streets including route numbers, if
any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate
sheet if space here is not sufficient).

UTM REFERENCE

19³ 19290. 46⁸⁸⁷⁹⁰
319340. 46⁸⁹⁰⁶⁰
319490. 46⁸⁹⁰⁴⁰
319430. 46⁸⁸⁷⁶⁰

USGS QUADRANGLE

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Sumner and Gibbs Streets Historic District is a cohesive cluster of suburban houses dating from the 1860s to 1900, and contains fine representative examples of the architectural styles most prevalent in Newton Centre during that period; therefore the Sumner & Gibbs Streets Historic District meets Criterion 3 of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

The Sumner and Gibbs Streets Historic District contains notable examples of many of the architectural styles prevalent in the Newton Centre area during the second half of the nineteenth century, the village's first significant period of growth. Sumner Street is the north-south axis running through the district, and is intersected roughly at its midpoint by Gibbs Street. The district is located just outside and to the north of the commercial center of the village.

Among the earliest houses in the district is the exceptionally well-preserved Mansard residence (1864) at 184 Gibbs Street. A 2½-story house based on a rectangular plan, the house has a steep, straight edged Mansard roof with pedimented dormers. This sidehall residence has a two-sided veranda with chamfered posts and a balustrade of open-work. Other notable features of this well-detailed house are the

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

Initial development along Sumner Street began to occur during the 1860s. Among the catalysts for this development were the improvements in passenger rail service between Boston and Newton Centre that slowly occurred. It was not until the opening of the Circuit Railroad in 1886 that service became frequent and reliable, leading to an intensification of building activity in neighborhoods surrounding the Newton Centre Railroad Station. The Sumner and Gibbs Streets area came to be regarded as a desirable place of residence by well-to-do Boston businessmen, who built stylish suburban houses there.

A second factor which contributed to the development in the Sumner and Gibbs Streets area was the construction of Commonwealth Avenue during the final years of the nineteenth century. This led to increased land values and an increase in building activity in neighborhoods along the new road, which became the city's major east-west boulevard. Along Sumner and Irving Streets lands that were formerly part of the estate of Marshall Rice, were sold off by his daughter, who had married Alvah Hovey, President of the Newton Theological Institution.

Newton: The Garden City, Newton Graphic, 1902, p. 154, 176.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Newton's 19th Century Architecture: Newton Centre, Oak Hill, Chestnut Hill, & Commonwealth Avenue. 1985. p. 35, 59, 60.
Tucci, Douglas Shand. Built in Boston, City & Suburb, N.Y. Graphic Society, 1978, p.93.
Beautiful Newton, Newton Graphic, 1915, p. 278.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newton Centre	Form No: M
Property Name: Sumner/Gibbs Sts.	

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

Architectural Significance:

paired cornice brackets, bracketed window lintels and full-height bay on the east elevation. The roof retains its covering of patterned gray slate.

The house at 115 Sumner Street (1884) is a fine example of the Queen Anne style. The blocky form of the house is capped by a steeply-pitched hip roof. The chief feature of the design is a corner conical tower. Other typical elements of the style found in this design are the integral second-story porch, oriel window, eyebrow windows and front veranda with an elaborate jigsaw-cut frieze and robustly turned posts. The entrance is flanked by half-sidelights of stained glass. In 1886 Daniel Kidder, a Boston glass dealer resided here. Much of the ornamental glass used in the interior design of the house is thought to have been imported from Austria by him.

The house at 134 Sumner Street (1891) is a well-preserved and representative example of the Georgian Revival style in Newton. It exemplifies the architectural work of great historical accuracy which succeeded the Colonial Revival style after 1900. This new trend was overwhelmingly accepted for residential building throughout the city. In quality of workmanship and range of fine materials, the Georgian Revival style embodies the high point reached by American building before World War I. The house at 134 Sumner Street reflects the characteristic formality of Georgian architecture. The use of brick was unusual in Newton before 1900. The boxy overall form of the house is capped by a truncated hip roof with a deck balustrade. The focal point of the three-bay facade is the center entrance, with its leaded glass fanlight and sidelights. Details include the splayed window lintels and a modillion cornice. Dormer windows have segmental heads. The house is set back from the street, and is sited on an ample corner lot encircled by a low fieldstone retaining wall.

Representing the mainstream of Colonial Revival design is the house at 106 Sumner Street (1899). It was built for Abbot Rice (b. 1862), a successful Boston businessman who was treasurer of the Matinee Waist Company, the Tremont Stores, and the Glen Shirt and Collar Company. A Newton alderman from 1913-1916, he was also a member of the Minimum Wage Board. The house is a boxy mass capped by a hip roof punctuated by dormers with scrolled pediments. The three bay facade is organized around a full-height elliptical center bay. A full-width veranda with a deck balustrade is supported by clustered columns.

The Bowen House (circa 1900) at 105 Sumner Street is an outstanding example of an upper-middle class suburban detached town house. With the intensive development of "streetcar suburbs" which occurred during the final years of the nineteenth century, detached town houses such as this one, began to be built in large numbers. Usually flanked by other large detached houses, they were massed closely and regularly to each other and to the street.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newton Centre	Form No: M
Property Name: Sumner & Gibbs Sts	

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

Architectural Significance:

The Bowen House bears a strong resemblance to the Fottler House at 389 Washington Street in Dorchester (1900). The Fottler house has been attributed to the architect Samuel Brown, who was a Newton resident. This suggests the possibility that the Bowen house may also have been designed by Brown. The Bowen house is a boxy form capped by a hip roof of steep pitch. The chief feature of the house is the monumental circular portico with Scammozzi capitals embellishing the columns. The portico has a full entablature, including a modillion cornice, and supports a balustrade. A pair of bays on the south elevation have Palladian windows and balustraded decks. This house was built by Edward B. Bowen, for whom Gibbs Street was originally named. His son also resided in the house, and was a boot and shoe merchant as well as a Newton alderman.

A small house designed in the Shingle Style stands at 181 Gibbs Street (circa 1890). The broad expanse of roof, swept conical dormer and integral porch are trademarks of the style which relate it to the more mainstream Shingle Style designs. Queen Anne overtones include the turned posts and balustrades of the porch, modillions at the eaves and variety in window size and placement.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

SUMNER & GIBBS STREETS HISTORIC DISTRICT

Address	S-B-L	Historic Name	Date	Style	C/NC	Inven.#	Area
184 Gibbs Street	61-31-12		1865	Mansard	C	NC-278	16,909
105 Sumner Street	61-30-11		c.1875	Colonial Rev.	C	NC-649	21,259
106 Sumner Street	61-2-8		1899	Colonial Rev.	C	NC-648	21,802
115 Sumner Street	61-30-12	Daniel Kidder House	1884	Shingle	C	NC-650	19,024
120 Sumner Street	61-29-1		1885	Queen Anne	C	NC-651	10,843
123 Sumner Street	61-30-13		1884	Queen Anne	C	----	13,459
126 Sumner Street	61-29-25		1873	Queen Anne	C	NC-653	9,105
131 Sumner Street	61-30-14		1870	Mansard	C	NC-655	13,883
134 Sumner Street	61-29-24		1891	Georgian Rev.	C	NC-654	21,699
139 Sumner Street	61-31-13		1867	Mansard	C	----	14,400
140 Sumner Street	61-28-1		1884	Queen Anne	C	NC-656	10,772
147 Sumner Street	61-31-13		1883	Queen Anne	C	NC-658	13,336
148 Sumner Street	61-28-12		1890	Shingle/Col.	C	NC-659	7,600
155 Sumner Street	61-31-15		1897	Colonial Rev.	C	NC-660	10,750
156 Sumner Street	61-28-12		1886	Queen Anne	C	NC-661	10,684
166 Sumner Street	61-27-9		c.1870	Italianate	C	NC-663	10,632

16 properties with an area of 226,157 square feet (acres)
 16 buildings, 0 non-contributing

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 1/23/86
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Newton MRA
State Middlesex County, MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| 11. Newton Lower Falls
Historic District | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byan 9/4/86</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 12. Newton Theological Institution
Historic District | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byan 9/4/86</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 13. Newton Upper Falls
Historic District | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byan 9/4/86</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 14. Newtonville Historic District | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byan 9/4/86</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 15. Old Chestnut Hill
Historic District | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byan 9/4/86</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 16. Our Lady Help of Christians
Historic District | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byan 9/4/86</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 17. Putnam Street Historic
District | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byan 9/4/86</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 18. Sumner and Gibbs Streets
Historic District | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byan 9/4/86</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 19. Union Street Historic
District | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byan 9/4/86</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 20. Webster Park Historic
District | Entered in the
National Register | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byan 9/4/86</u> |
| | | Attest | |

86001762

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Sumner and Gibbs Streets Historic District
(Newton MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

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

Working No. JUL 23 1986
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 8/4/86 - 8/6/86
Action: ACCEPT 9-4-86
RETURN
REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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

Please provide scale for sketch map. Districts provide square, block & lot #s for all properties

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Sumner + Gibbs streets 4, 12

1957 10 12

1957 10 12

Newton, Mass. MRA

- Sumner St looking north
Newton Centre MR-A-1 (21) -



Sumner + Gibbs Streets W.D

1957 10 20

1957 10 20

Newton, Mass. MRA

- View looking south Sumner St.
- Newton Centre MR-A-1 (20a) -



Summer + Gibbs Streetz H/D

Newton, Mass. MRA

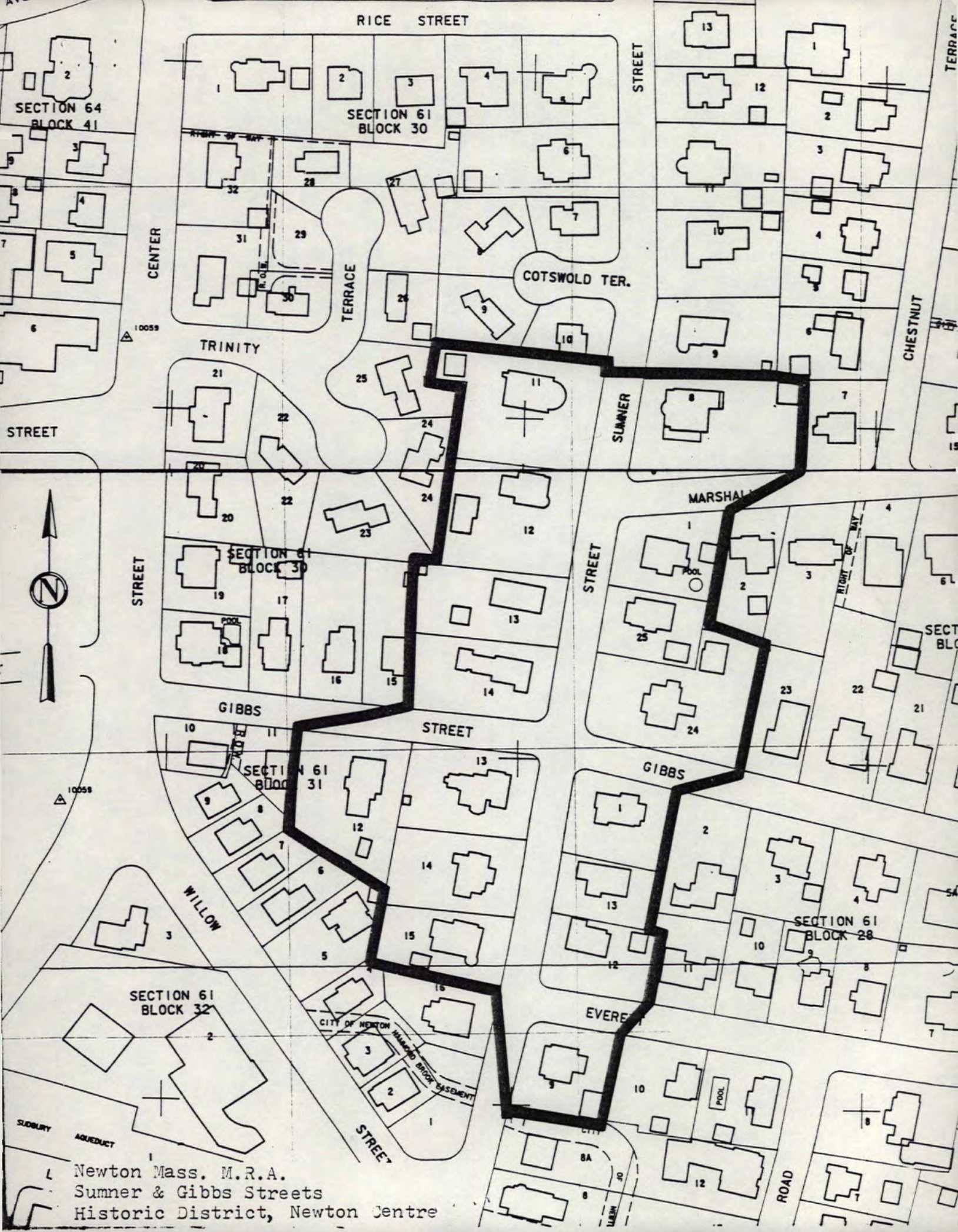
Summer St looking north
- Newton Centre, MR-A-1 (19a) -



Scinner + Gibbs Streets A.D

Newton, Mass. MRA

- 184 Gibbs St, N. Centre
MR-A-1 (18a)
2



Newton Mass. M.R.A.
Summer & Gibbs Streets
Historic District, Newton Centre