

1487

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

AUG 21 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

AREA	FORM NO.
	35

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Town Waltham, MA

Address 215 Adams Street

Historic Name Lenoir Dow House

Use: Present private residence

Original "

DESCRIPTION

Date after March 19, 1888

Source deed research

Style Queen Anne

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboards, wood shingles

Outbuildings garage-NC

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition good--excellent

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage 9,000 sq.ft. 0.24-76-6-10

Setting densely settled mid-late 19th c. century residential area

Recorded by Ed Gordon

Organization Waltham Hist. Comm.

Date June, 1986

revised by C. Jenkins 3/88

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

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*

UTM REFERENCE 19/315 330 /4692330

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON

SCALE 1:25,000

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

The Lenoir Dow House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as a representative of the South Side's residential development by the "Watch" in the 19th century, a development that directly reflected concurrent industrial prosperity. It is also one of a handful of well-detailed and well-preserved Queen Anne dwellings erected for "Watch" company employees. The Dow House thus meets criteria A 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.**

Architecturally 215 Adams St. is a remarkably well-preserved and well-crafted example of the Queen Anne style. Possessing an irregular plan, its main facade features an encircling verandah with turned porch posts and spool work transom. The original double doors are still intact behind metal storm doors. To the left of the porch is a 2-story octagonal bay which exhibits an apron of sawcut shingles between the first and second floors. The bay-culminates in an attic with distinctive, pointed arch window. This window appears on several other houses of this vintage on the South Side. In general, this house's windows are simply enframed and contain 2/1 wood sash. Its edges are accented by simple corner boards. This house is enclosed by a slate shingle covered hip roof with ornate cast iron cresting which incorporates a fleur de lis motif.

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

Built in 1888, this house dates to the South Side's building boom of the late 1880's-early 1890's. Although a grid plan of streets and houselots had been set out in the crescent-shaped area west of Moody St. in 1854, many of these lots remained undeveloped until the late 1880's. Under the leadership of Royal E. Robbins during the late 19th c. the American Waltham Watch Co. prospered, adding more components to its already extensive plant along Crescent St. The majority of the residents in the residential area between Moody St. and the Charles River worked for "the Watch".

On March 19, 1888, Flora A. Dow, wife of Lenoir A. Dow purchased this property from William H.P. Smith for \$1300. This transaction involved only the land. Lenoir A. Dow is listed in late 19th century Waltham Directories as a machinist. The Dows sold this land "with the buildings thereon" to Emma F. Rice, widow on May 14, 1890. Emma F. Rice, in turn, sold it to Alvin S. Litchfield of Chelsea, Ma. on June 3, 1890 for \$4600.00. Litchfield owned this house until at least 1911. By 1927 an Edwin S. Prescott, carpenter owned this house.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Waltham Maps/Atlases--1854, 1874, 1831, 1886, 1900  
Waltham Directories--late 19th c.  
Middlesex Deeds--1979: 206, 1977: 252, 1979: 206

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* Keeper Melores Byers 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 22. Company F State Armory *Entered in the National Register* Keeper Melores Byers 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 23. Dow, Lenoir, House *Entered in the National Register* Keeper Melores 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* Keeper Melores Byers 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 26. Eastern Middlesex County Second District Court *Entered in the National Register* Keeper Melores 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* Keeper Melores Byers 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 30. Fiske, Elijah, House *Entered in the National Register* Keeper Melores 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 NAME: Dow, Lenoir, House

MULTIPLE NAME: Waltham MRA

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: 89001487

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  
 UTMs       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 \_\_\_\_\_



215 Adams St.

MHC # 35 215 Adams St.

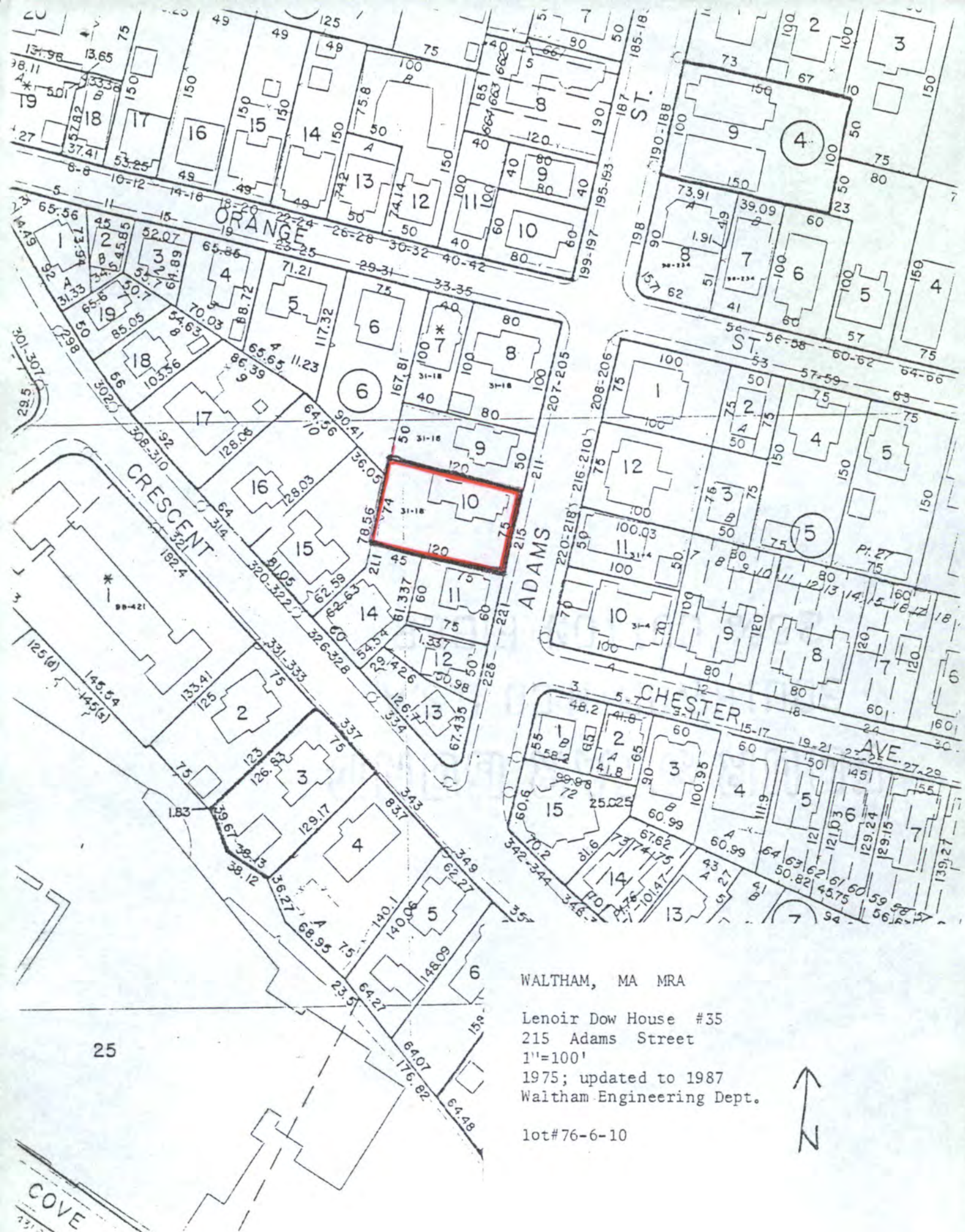
215 Adams St

Waltham, MA.

MA

Dew, Lenoir, House

STEVEN GARDNER ©



WALTHAM, MA MRA

Lenoir Dow House #35

215 Adams Street

1"=100'

1975; updated to 1987

Waltham Engineering Dept.

lot#76-6-10



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COVE

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301