

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AUG 21 1989

1545

AUG 21 1989

AREA

FORM NO.

124

WALTHAM, MA MRA

n Waltham, MAress 935 Main Streettoric Name Gale-Banks HousePresent ProfessionalOriginal Residential

RIPTION

1798ce Deedse Federalllect unknownExterior Wall Fabric ClapboardOutbuildings noneMajor Alterations (with dates) Balustrade
and main roofon porch roof and access door from
house, now removedCondition ExcellentMoved no Date n/aAcreage 0.175 7,000 sq. ft. 59-16-11Setting In a commercial district and
on a major commercial streetRecorded by Nancy S. SeasholesOrganization Waltham Historical Comm.Date August 1986

revised C. Jenkins 2/88

geographical features. Indicate all buildings
between inventoried property and nearest
intersection(s).
Indicate north

see attached map

UTM REFERENCE 19/314800/4694850USGS QUADRANGLE LEXINGTONSCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Gale/Banks House is a well-preserved example of an early Federal farmhouse and is one of the few houses of its type in the city. It is most notable, however, as the home of Nathaniel P. Banks, Waltham's most famous nineteenth century citizen: a Governor of Massachusetts, Congressman and Speaker of the House, and Civil War General. It thus meets criteria A, B and C of the National Register of Historic Places. It possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

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

Set on a major highway and in a commercial district, this early Federal farmhouse is well-preserved and one of the best examples of its type in the city. It has a five-by-four bay double profile, cornerboards, a low hipped roof, and two large panel brick chimneys, the latter probably rebuilt. The windows have simple molded surrounds and the entrance has pilasters, a narrow transom and sidelights, and a door that may be original. This house is very similar in appearance to the east facade of the Sanderson-Bemis House at 380 Lexington Street. The unusual hipped dormer that faces both front and back at the apex of the roof and the entry porch with fluted Doric columns were both apparently added in the nineteenth century. The porch roof was once surmounted by a balustrade and was accessible through a door located where the center window on the second floor is now. The balustrade from the main roof has also been removed. Windows now contain late-19th century 2/2 sash and a late 19th century porch is attached to the west elevation.

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 was built about 1798 by Jacob Gale on land that had been associated with the Gale family since the seventeenth century and that had been left to Jacob after the death of his father, Samuel, in 1793. In 1855 the Gale homestead was purchased by Nathaniel P. Banks.

Nathaniel Prentice Banks was born in 1816 in a tenement block on River Street in what was later the Bleachery district. His father was a carpenter for the Boston Manufacturing Company and for a short time Nathaniel worked in the mills as a bobbin boy. He attended Lewis Smith's school and read widely on his own at the Rumford Institute. In 1839 he edited the Middlesex Reporter, a weekly, but it moved to Lowell, MA, and Banks began to study law.

CONT

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Stone, P. M.

1950 Articles on N. P. Banks. Waltham News-Tribune, November 9, 10.

Warren, Nathan

1890 Waltham. In History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, ed. by D. Hamilton Hurd. Vol. 3. Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Co.

Anonymous

n.d. Nathaniel Prentice Banks. Typescript. Waltham Public Library.
Waltham News-Tribune, June 1984.

Middlesex Deeds - 115:192; 234:276; 626:309; 716:567; 3200:261; Plan Book 112,
plan 1.

Maps and atlases - 1875, 1886, 1900, 1911, 1923

Directories - 1871, 1901, 1911, 1915, 1923.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Community:	Form No:
Waltham, MA	124
Property Name: Gale-Banks House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

In 1849 Banks opened his own law office and the same year, after four unsuccessful attempts, was elected Representative to the General Court as a Democrat. He apparently was instrumental in the negotiations that enabled Waltham to buy the South Side from Newton; he was reelected to three more terms. In 1853 he was chosen as president of the state constitutional convention and was also elected to the United States Congress as a Coalition Democrat. He was reelected in 1855 as a member of the American (Know-Nothing) Party and, after a long battle, was chosen Speaker of the House. He was elected to a third term in 1857 as a Republican but resigned that year to become Governor of Massachusetts. He was elected to two more (one year) terms as Governor and in 1860 became president of the Illinois Central Railroad. He resigned in 1861 in order to accept an appointment as a General in the Union Army. He participated in several unsuccessful campaigns including Shenandoah, Cedar Mountain, and Red River. To his credit, however, Banks was known as a fine horseman and an immaculate dresser whose yellow gloves set off the deep blue of his uniform.

In 1948 the American Historical Association sponsored a biography of Banks by Fred Harvey Harrington entitled Fighting Politician -- Major General N. P. Banks. It was undertaken as a study of one of the Union's political generals who had no military background and had not attended West Point. Banks frequent change of political party also, as Harrington observed, illuminated the role of a "practical politician" in a time of great sectional conflict.

After the war, Banks returned to Waltham and was elected to Congress from 1865 to 1877, was appointed U.S. Marshall for Massachusetts from 1877 to 1888, and was again a Congressman from 1888 to 1891.

In 1847 Banks had married Mary T. Palmer, who had also worked in the mills. At first they lived with her parents, apparently in the house now at 35-37 Central Street (see form), and then with his on Main Street. In 1855 Banks purchased the Gale homestead of about 20 acres and reportedly ran a well-equipped farm with cattle, horses, pigs, orchards, corn fields, a grape arbor, poultry yards, and other features. When the Prince of Wales visited Massachusetts in 1861 during Bank's last term as Governor, Mrs. Banks, as First Lady, danced the first dance with the royal guest, an event that reportedly caused Boston society matrons to complain about the "audacity of that factory girl!"

After Banks' death in 1894, the homestead property was subdivided into houselots; the house was sold in 1905 to Frans O. Strom, a carpenter who lived nearby on Prospect Hill Avenue. The Stroms apparently rented this house; in 1923 it was occupied by Peter Gilson, an advertising solicitor for the Boston Globe.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

1986/12

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Gale--Banks House

MULTIPLE NAME: Waltham MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 8/21/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY:
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/05/89

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001545

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: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ ACCEPT ☒ RETURN ___ REJECT 9/28/89 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Please specify which area(s) of significance are applicable for eligibility under criterion B: pds./gov. & military are not discussed in MRA over form, there is not enough information provided here to justify military and although long his political career seems less than spectacular based on info. provided.
Please specify eligibility under criterion A for this property, as is this criterion is not justified.

RECOM./CRITERIA Return
REVIEWER Swire
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 9/28/89

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments ☒ see attached SLR ☒

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
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed Betty L. Savage Phone (202) 343-9500
Date 9/28/89

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

1545
AUG 21 1989NATIONAL
REGISTER

AREA

FORM NO.

124

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Town Waltham, MAAddress 935 Main StreetHistoric Name Gale-Banks HouseUse: Present ProfessionalOriginal Residential

DESCRIPTION

Date 1798Source DeedsStyle FederalArchitect unknownExterior Wall Fabric ClapboardOutbuildings noneMajor Alterations (with dates) Balustrade
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on a major commercial streetRecorded by Nancy S. SeasholesOrganization Waltham Historical Comm.Date August 1986

revised C. Jenkins 2/88

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 map

UTM REFERENCE 19/314800/4695850USGS QUADRANGLE LEXINGTONSCALE 1:25,000

The Gale-Banks House is a well-preserved example of an early Federal farmhouse and is one of the few houses of its type in the city. It possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and thus meets Criteria C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Waltham, MA	Form No: 124
Property Name: Gale-Banks House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

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Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Aug 21 1989

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 GroupName Waltham MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | | |
|-----|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 31. | Fitch, Ezra, School | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 32. | Flagg, Frederick, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 33. | French, Daniel, School | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 34. | Fuller--Bemis House | Substantive Review | Keeper <u><i>Bob L. Savage</i></u> | <u>3/9/90</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 35. | Gale--Banks House | Substantive Review | Keeper <u><i>Bob L. Savage</i></u> | <u>3/9/90</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 36. | Gibbs, William, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 37. | Gilbrae Inn | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 38. | Grove Hill Cemetery | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 39. | Hagar--Smith--Livermore--Sanderson
House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 40. | Hager--Mead House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Gale--Banks House

MULTIPLE NAME: Waltham MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 1/23/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/09/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001545

NOMINATOR: STATE

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 3/9/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Locally significant early
Federal farmhouse, a rare survivor
in Waltham.*

Initial return comments addressed.

*The cut and paste on the inventory form
is not acceptable. NPS will copy
page #2 onto archival paper.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C
REVIEWER Savage
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 3/9/90

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
 UTMs boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

 sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone _____

Signed _____

Date _____



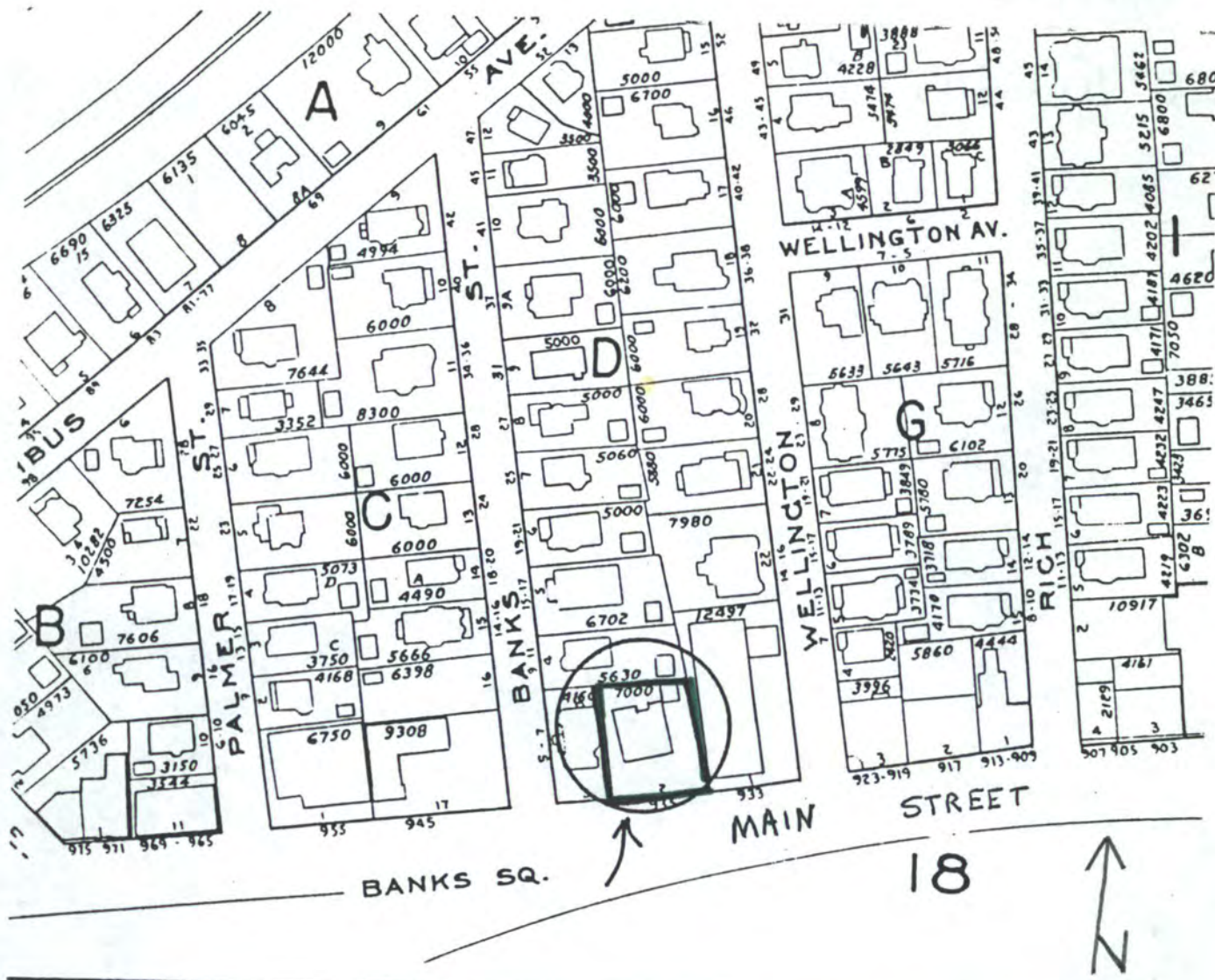
Gale--Banks House

935 MAIN ST.

WALTHAM, MA MRA

#124

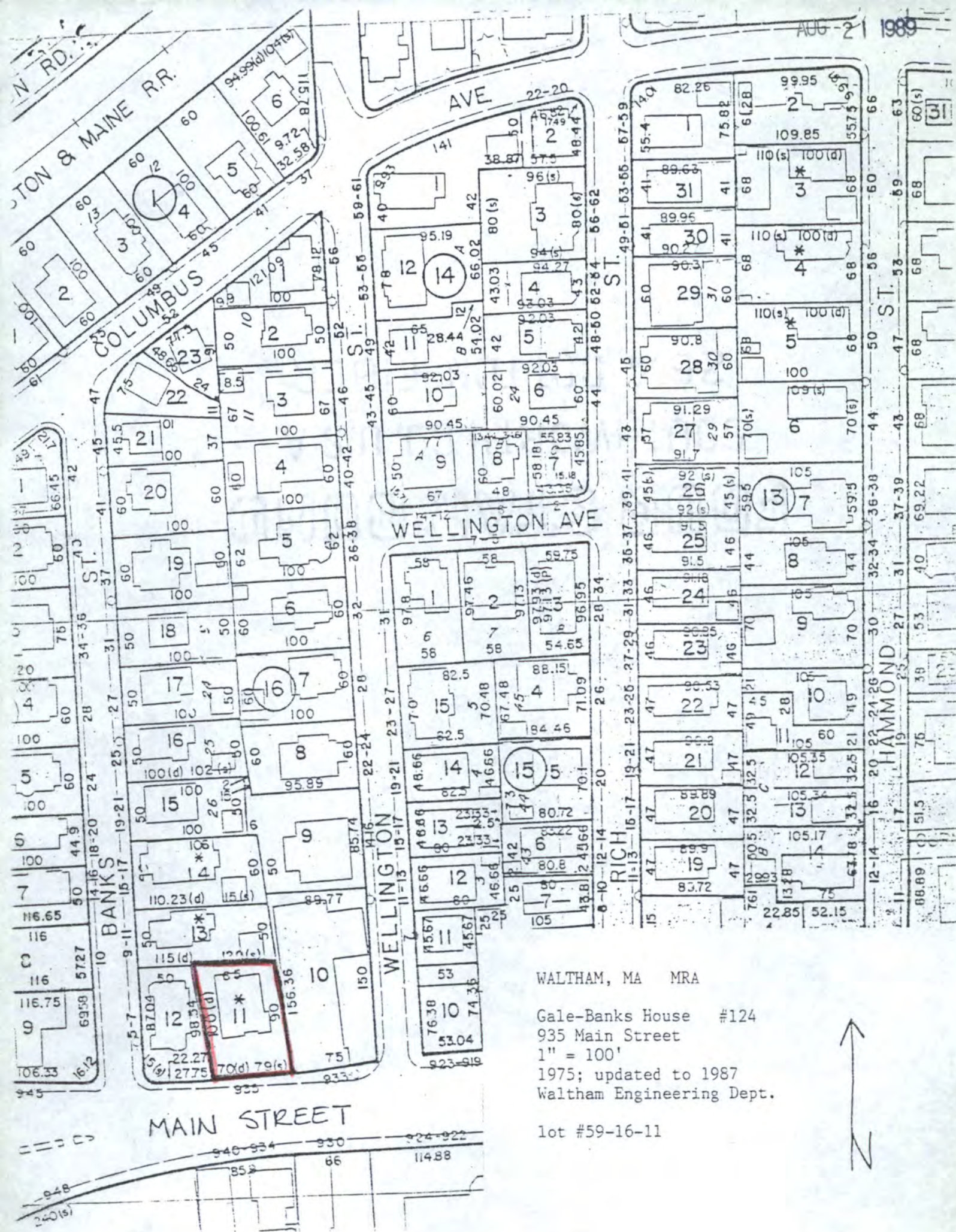
AUG 21 1989



1970 Atlas, City of Waltham
Compiled by the Waltham
Engineering Division
Scale: 1 inch = 140 feet

Waltham, Massachusetts MRA
935 Main Street
Gale-1 Banks House
19-D-2

AUG-21 1989



WALTHAM, MA MRA

Gale-Banks House #124
935 Main Street
1" = 100'
1975; updated to 1987
Waltham Engineering Dept.

lot #59-16-11

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301