

1796

AREA FORM NO.

4-5

FORM B - BUILDING

AUG 21 1989

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

NATIONAL REGISTER

Town WALTHAM, MA MRA
Waltham, Massachusetts

Address 58 Chestnut Street

Historic Name Royal E. Robbins

School _____

Use Present Arthur J. Clark
Community Workshop
Original school

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

DESCRIPTION

Date 1901

Source Waltham City Documents 1900 -

Style Georgian Revival

Architect possibly Samuel Patch

Exterior Wall Fabric brick

Outbuildings none

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) brick stairwell added (n.d.) and replacement sash (n.d.) - originally 6/2

Condition good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage 22,610 sq.ft. 0.52
A 69-16-16

Setting Densely settled residential area of mid-late 19th c. houses.

UTM REFERENCE 19/315630/4692950

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Edward W. Gordon

Organization Waltham Historical Comm

Date June, 1986

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Royal E. Robbins School possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and associations. It remains as an important component of Waltham's turn-of-the-century building campaign, and also provides a strong reflection of the rapid growth of the South Side in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Fittingly, it was named for a man involved in the founding of the Waltham Watch Company, and its treasurer for 45 years. It is also a solid and well executed example of a period school with few alterations. The Robbins School 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.

The Royal E. Robbins School, 58 Chestnut Street, is located on Waltham's South Side, in a residential area of mid-late 19th century houses. Rectangular in plan, this school represents a restrained foray into the Georgian Revival Style. Constructed of brick with limestone trim, all of this building's walls are formally finished. The main facade is treated as a recessed 3-bay segment flanked by projecting wings. Particularly noteworthy are the main entrance's enframements. Here, modern replacement doors are situated within a recessed area, reached via a low flight of granite steps. This recessed area is framed by well-crafted mouldings, and is surmounted by an entablature which reads: "Arthur J. Clark Workshop". Above the entablature is a dentil course and cornice-headed lintel. The front doors are surmounted by an 8-pane transom. The basement features a broad,

(cont)

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

The Royal E. Robbins School was built in 1901. It was named for Royal Elisha Robbins, who for 45 years was treasurer of the American Waltham Watch Company and senior member of the firm of Robbins and Appleton, distributing agents for the company. He was "essentially one of the fathers of American watch making, and the people of Waltham recognized that, to him more than to any other man, the success of the city is attributable." He was born in Kensington, a parish of Berlin, Connecticut, on March 10, 1824. During the mid-1840's, after several years in England, he started a business in New York City as an importer of English watches. In May of 1857, he went to Waltham Massachusetts in the interest of Tracy and Baker of Philadelphia, manufacturers of watch cases. At that time the Boston Watch Company (predecessor to the American Waltham Watch Co.) was in financial ruin. Tracey, Baker and Robbins purchased the Boston Watch Company, and henceforth Royal E. Robbins played a major role in the affairs of the new company - The American Waltham Watch Company. He died at his country home at Pride's Crossing, Massachusetts, on July 22, 1902. In addition to the school at 58 Chestnut, a park across the street from the American Waltham Watch factory was named in honor of Royal E. Robbins (now a parking lot)

(cont)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Waltham City Documents: 1900, 1901, 1902

Abbot, Henry G., "A Pioneer History of the American Waltham Watch Company of Waltham, Massachusetts", reprinted from the History of the Watch Factories of America, American Jeweler Print, 1905.

#45

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, Royal Robin School, continued

limestone watertable. Between floors 1 and 2, are continuous, narrow, courses of brickwork dentils and limestone. The third floor features rusticated brickwork. In general, windows feature modern replacement treatments. This building is crowned by a low hip roof, with a pair of tall chimneys projecting from near the center.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE, 58 Chestnut Street, continued

The story of the Royal E. Robbins School begins on July 28th, 1900, when an order appropriating \$30,000.00 for a new primary school was approved. Sketches were hastily selected and working drawings completed of a six room building. By 1901, a school building containing 8 rooms (called the Royal E. Robbins School) was completed. By 1902, it was noted that "since early in September this building has been in use, although all the contracts were not at that time complete. Even yet the heating plant has not been entirely adjusted; but it is hoped now that soon it will be put in condition to give entire satisfaction." In recent years it has been used to house "special classes of ungraded children on the elementary level." Its six rooms are about 22' x 30', and have window sills four feet from the floor. During the 1960's, a branch of the Waltham Public Library was located in this building.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEETMASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: WALTHAM, MA.	Form No: 45
Property Name: <i>Royal E. Robbins School</i>	

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



Royal Elisha Robbins.
*Treasurer and General Manager of
the American Watch Co. 1857-1902*

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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	Entered in the National Register	Date/Signature Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u>
71. Potter--O'Brien House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
72. Prospect House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
73. Robbins, Royal E., School	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
74. Sanderson, John, House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
75. Sanderson, Nathan, I, House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
76. Sanderson, Nathan, II, House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
77. Sanderson--Clark Farmhouse	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
78. Smith, Marshall, House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
79. Smith, Perez, House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
80. St. Charles Borromeo Church	Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byrum 9/28/89</u> Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Robbins, Royal E., School

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: 89001496

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

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 _____



Robinson School

WALTHAM Hist Soc.

Robbins Royal E. School

58 Chestnut St
MTC #45
Waltham, MA MRA



Robbins Royal Ex. School

58 Chestnut St


Waltham # 45

Waltham, MA 01984



© STEVEN GYURINA

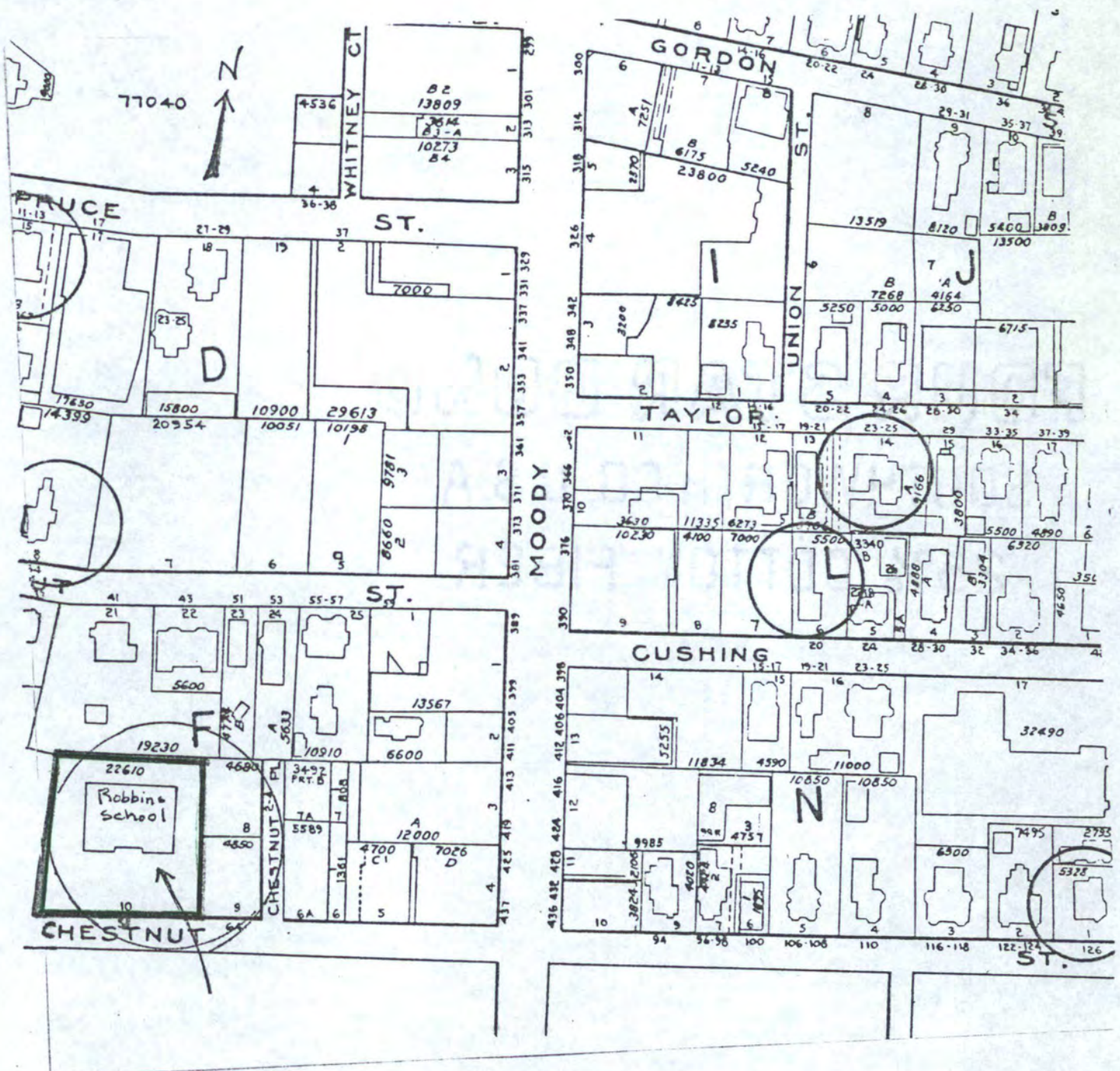
58 Chestnut st
Royal E. Robbins School
MHC # 45
Waltham ~ MA MPA

A black and white photograph of a brick building's entrance. The entrance is framed by a classical pediment with the text "ARTHUR J. CLARK WORKSHOP" inscribed on it. The door is a double door with a transom window above it. There are steps leading up to the door, flanked by black metal railings. The building has several windows, some with decorative elements above them. In the foreground, there is snow and a wooden picnic table.

ARTHUR J. CLARK
WORKSHOP

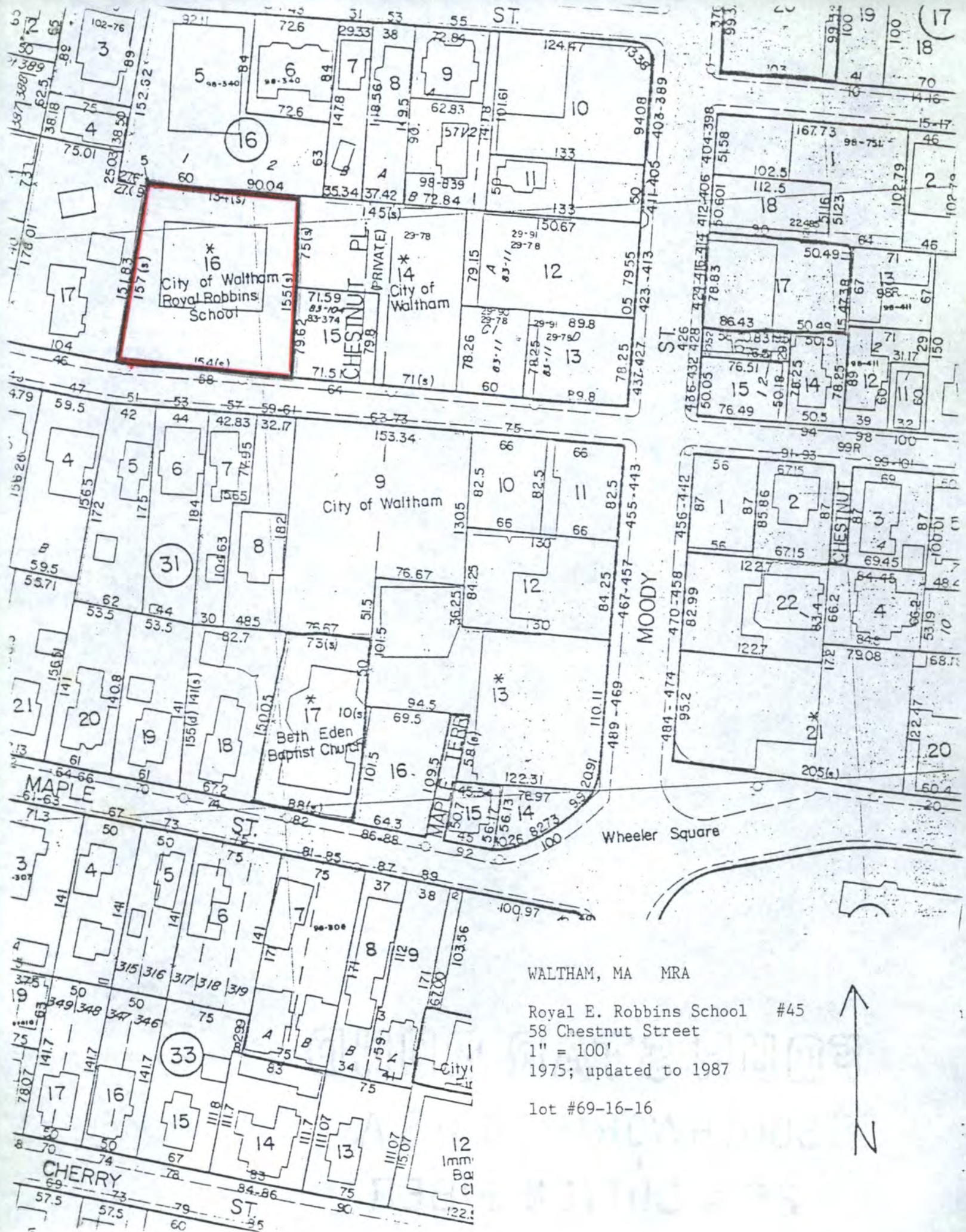
© STEVEN GYURINA

58 Chestnut st
Royal E. Robbins School
MC # 45
Waltham, Ma. MRA



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

Waltham, MA, MRA
 58 Chestnut St.
 Royal E. Robbins School
 A-F-10 MITC #45



WALTHAM, MA MRA

Royal E. Robbins School #45
 58 Chestnut Street
 1" = 100'
 1975; updated to 1987

lot #69-16-16



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301