

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

JAN 02 1990 37

AREA

FORM NO.

W-0101

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 19/316240/4688270
USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON
SCALE 1:25000

Town Newton (Waban)Address 1608 Beacon StreetHistoric Name Waban Branch LibraryUse: Present libraryOriginal same

DESCRIPTION

Date 1929Source Building PermitStyle Tudor RevivalArchitect Densmore, LeClear & RobbinsExterior Wall Fabric brickOutbuildings noneMajor Alterations (with dates) noneCondition excellentMoved no Date n/aAcreage 45,833 sq.ft. C 1.05ASetting prominent corner site at eastern edge of village centerRecorded by Candace Jenkins/Susan AbeleOrganization Newton Historical Comm.Date 3/1987; rev. 3/1988

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Waban Library possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as one of five branch libraries built in the city by citizen subscription between 1926-1939 (see WN-J, 1925; A-03, 1927; W-0101, 1929; NV-G, 1938). As such it reflects Newton's tremendous growth during that period and the continuing strength of its village system. It is also a good institutional example of the Tudor Revival style by the well-known Boston firm of Densmore, LeClear & Robbins. It meets criteria A & C of the NRHP.

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

The Waban Branch Library was designed by Densmore, LeClear & Robbins in the Tudor Revival style in 1929. It is a 1 and 1/2 story rectangular plan brick structure enclosed by a slate gable roof contained by raised end walls. Its five bay facade is organized around a large central projecting cross gable with an attached arched entry porch. Flanking windows have heavy mullions and are set in rusticated frames.

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

The Waban Branch Library was the fourth branch library built by public subscription and donated to the city. Fundraising for the new library was under taken by the Waban Public Library Association, Inc. which raised \$63,500 from about 550 families in Waban. Construction was begun in 1929 and the building was dedicated May 2, 1930. It was designed by the firm of Densmore, LeClear and Robbins, who were also responsible for the Christian Science Church in Newtonville (1927) and the Oak Hill School (1935).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Building Records 1608 Beacon Street
Newton Graphic 5/2/30

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Newton MRA
State Middlesex County, MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

161. Second Church of Newton **Entered in the
National Register** Keeper Delores Byers 2/16/90

Attest _____

162. Stratton, Edward B., House **Entered in the
National Register** Keeper Delores Byers 2/16/90

Attest _____

163. Towle, Loren, Estate **National Register** Keeper Delores Byers 2/16/90

Attest _____

164. Waban Branch Library **Entered in the
National Register** Keeper Delores Byers 2/16/90

Attest _____

165. Walker Home for Missionary Children
Substantive Review

Keeper _____

Attest _____

166. Warren, Levi, Jr., High School **Entered in the
National Register** Keeper Delores Byers 2/16/90

Attest _____

167. Boston College Main Campus
Return Historic District **Substantive Review** Keeper Ret.

Attest _____

168. Church, William L., House **Entered in the
National Register** Keeper Delores Byers 2/21/90

Attest _____

169. Farlow Hill Historic District **Entered in the
National Register** Keeper Delores Byers 2/21/90

Attest _____

170. Newton Cottage Hospital Historic District **Substantive Review** Keeper Beth J. Savage 2/21/90

Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Waban Branch Library
NAME:

MULTIPLE Newton MRA
NAME:

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: 90000037

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
 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 _____



Waban Branch Library
1608 Beacon St.
Newton, MA
Meddley/C

Newton, MA-MRA

C. Jenkins

1/81

req. @ Jackson Homestead

W-0101

87/5 - 8

SECTION 53
BLOCK 32

BEACON STREET

LIBRARY

EASEMENT

DRAIN AND SEWER

CITY OF NEWTON

SECTION 53
BLOCK 28

PINE RIDGE

COCHITUATE

AQUEDUCT

TAKING

WOOD

Newton, MA-MRA

1608 Beacon Street
SBL: 53-28-11

Engineering Map - 1979
Page: 101
Scale: 1"=1000"

SECTION
BLOCK :

COCHITUATE

WYMAN