

FORM A .. AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

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).

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

P	See Data Sheet
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Newton, Mass; MRA

Town Newton (Newton Centre)

Name of Area (if any) _____

Newton Theological Institution Historic District

Present Use Institutional/
Residential

General Date or Period 1825-present

General Condition Excellent

Acreage 44.7 acres

Recorded by Harriet White

Organization Newton Historical Comm.

Date 3/86

UTM REFERENCE 19³ 19680. 46 87570
3 19170. 46 88260
3 19390. 46 88400
3 19930. 46 87810

USGS QUADRANGLE Newton

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Newton Theological Institution (1825) was one of several important educational and cultural institutions which flourished in Newton during the nineteenth century and therefore meets Criterion A of the National Register of Historic Places. The Newton Theological Institution Historic District contains outstanding examples of nineteenth century domestic and institutional architecture and therefore meets Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

The Newton Theological Institution Historic District is located just south of the commercial district in Newton Centre. The district is bisected by a north-south thoroughfare, Herrick Road (formerly known as Institution Avenue). The foot of Herrick Road consists of a small residential neighborhood containing a number of residences in a variety of nineteenth century architectural styles. The remainder of the district consists of the campus of the Andover-Newton Theological School, which occupies a tract of land measuring over forty acres on the broad slope of Institution Hill. There are approximately twenty-five widely-spaced campus buildings, including dormitories, classrooms, offices and a library. These structures range in date from 1829 to the present.

During the first one hundred years of its existence the Newton Theological Institution campus contained only six buildings. Classes

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

The Andover-Newton Theological School, the country's first inter-denominational seminary, resulted from a 1931 merger of the Andover Theological Seminary and the Newton Theological School. The Andover Theological Seminary was founded in 1807 and is considered the oldest Congregational seminary in America. The Newton Theological Institution was founded in 1825 by the Massachusetts Baptist Education Society, to fill the need for a Baptist seminary in the Boston area. It is considered the country's oldest Baptist seminary. Its classes were first taught in the home of Reverend Irah Chase (for whom Chase Street is named), a professor of Biblical Theology. By 1829, the the Massachusetts Baptist Education Society purchased 85 acres just south of the Newton Common. The purchase included the mansion (now demolished) which had been built in 1790 atop the slope which later became known as Institution Hill. The house and surrounding meadows, orchards and gardens had been built by John Peck. At first the property was considered too remote by the Baptists, but because of the stage connection at the foot of the hill, the site was finally agreed upon. By 1852 the virtues of the location seem to have been recognized, in this excerpt from Gleason's Pictorial: "...Three convenient houses have been erected for the professors. In

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Newton's 19th Century Architecture: Newton Centre, Oak Hill, Chestnut Hill.
Newton's Older Houses: N. Centre, N. H'lands, Oak Hill, Chestnut Hill.
Jackson Homestead vertical files.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newton (Newton Centre)	Form No: P
Property Name: Newton Theological Ins	

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

Architectural Significance:

were first held in the house (since demolished) of Reverend Irah Chase on the east side of Centre Street, just south of the Baptist Church. In 1828 the gift of a benefactor, Levi Farwell, made possible the construction of the school's first permanent building, Farwell Hall. It was a typical institutional building of the period, architecturally related to Harvard University's early structures. Farwell Hall is eighty-five feet long and forty-nine feet wide. The basic form of the building and its window proportions recall its Federal origins. In 1857 a third story and Mansard roof were added. The building originally contained classrooms, dormitories, a chapel and a library, although today it serves only as a dormitory. According to an engraving of the building dated 1866, done by S.C. Spaulding, Farwell Hall originally had double end chimneys joined by a parapet. The structure retains its center entrance and original five by eight bay form.

A second major campus building is Colby Hall (1866) listed N.R.H.P. 1/30/78. Colby Hall was built with funds contributed by Gardner Colby, a trustee, to accommodate the growing number of students at the seminary. It is an imposing, 2½-story edifice of quarry-faced granite, and is capped by a steep, straight-edged Mansard roof with recessed, pedimented dormers. Colby Hall combines elements of the Mansard and Romanesque Revival styles. The entrance is recessed within a low, round arched opening. The chief feature of the design is the square tower with a pyramidal roof. The tower is offset to the left of the entrance. The corners of the tower are canted at the second story level. Fenestration consists of single and paired windows set within tall, slender, round-arched openings. The library was housed in the one-story octagonal wing.

Later buildings include Sturtevant Hall (1873), built with funds donated by Benjamin F. Sturtevant, a Boston manufacturer and engineer. Modernized in 1954, it now contains dormitories and a refectory. Burgess Gymnasium (circa 1880) and Hills Library (1895) are well-preserved structures which pre-date the school's merger with the Andover Theological School. The following structures were all erected after the 1931 merger: Dabney, Noyes, Kendall and Fuller Halls, Herrick House and the Student Center.

The residential neighborhood at the northern end of the district, at the foot of Institution Hill contains notable examples of several nineteenth century architectural styles, including the Italianate, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival. The Mellen Bray House (circa 1871) at 73 Herrick Road is a 2½-story, L-plan residence which represents the mainstream of Italianate design. Its characteristic features include verandas on three elevations, an overhanging, bracketed cornice, a full-height polygonal bay, and the entrance located at the crossing of the two wings. The elaborate front veranda has paired, chamfered posts and closely spaced balusters of squat proportions. The house was built by

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newton Centre	Form No: P
Property Name: Newton Theological Inst	

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

Architectural Significance:

Mellen Bray, who was active in Newton Centre real estate development. He also built the commercial block in the Union Street Historic District which is known as Bray's Hall, and the apartment building Bradford Court, located at 17-31 Herrick Road and also in the Union Street Historic District. Bray was also responsible for the development of some Braeland Street rental properties. Bray was also the inventor of a machine which produced the tubular rivets used in the manufacture of shoes.

The city's finest high-styled Mansard residence is the John H. Sanborn house (circa 1870) located at 70 Chase Street at the intersection of Chase Street and Herrick Road. The house was built for John H. Sanborn, a Boston broker and commission merchant who also served as a Representative to the Massachusetts General Court. The imposing residence is a 2½-story house based on a rectangular plan, and capped with a bellcast Mansard roof of gray, fish-scale patterned slates. The focal point of the design is the towered entrance pavilion. A subsidiary tower stands at the rear corner of the house. Notable features of the Sanborn house include the paired cornice brackets, dentil course at the eaves, and paired, slender round-headed windows. The building now contains the offices of the Newton Theological Institution Career Center.

The well-preserved Queen Anne style house at 91 Herrick Road (1884) was the home of William Bray, the son of Mellen Bray. William Bray was the treasurer of his father's business. The house is a 2½-story structure based on a rectangular plan, with a gable-on-hip roof. The focal point of the design is a conical corner tower. Textural variety is achieved by the use of patterned wood shingles, clapboards, and incised floral motifs, as well as robustly turned porch posts and balusters.

The house at 120 Herrick Road (1906) was built in the Colonial Revival style, possibly by the Theological Institution for use as a residence for faculty. The boxy form of the house is capped by a steeply pitched hip roof with a pair of segmental dormers on the front slope. The focal point of the three-bay facade is the broad, center entrance porch with paired Scamozzi capitals, supporting a deck balustrade.

A second notable house dating from the 1880s is located at 102 Herrick Street. Designed circa 1883, the house combines elements of the Queen Anne and Stick Styles. Walls are covered with clapboards and decorative cut wood shingles. The two-sided wrap-around veranda has decorated brackets and turned posts. The house was built by Russell Conwell, a lawyer and clergyman.

The residences in the Newton Theological Institution Historic District typify the commodious late nineteenth century houses built by the upper middle class in the vicinity of Newton Centre. The area attracted Boston commuters and local entrepreneurs as well as those associated with the Institution.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Page 4 of 4

Community: Newton Centre	Form No: P
Property Name: Newton Theological Inst	

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

Historical Significance:

the mansion house are accommodations for the steward's family, the dining hall, a chapel and recitation rooms....The seminary is about seven miles from Boston, in a very healthy position, being beautifully situated on an elevated hill, which commands an extensive prospect of Boston and the rich country around."

The Newton Theological Institution was the first important outside educational institution to locate in Newton. It attracted numerous scholars and theologians to the area, including the Reverend Samuel Francis Smith, who authored a history of Newton, and the Reverends Irah Chase and Henry Ripley, for whom nearby streets named. As a senior student at the school, Smith wrote the words to the patriotic song "America" (My country, 'tis of thee), and he was considered by many to be the town's poet laureate. Smith, whose home was located opposite the common, became a pastor of the Baptist Church.

By 1852 the Charles River Railroad began operation between Brookline and Newton Centre (and Upper Falls). This did not, however, make the campus of the Theological Institution more accessible to commuters. Instead the railroad line was primarily used by industry and for the transporting of fill for the Back Bay in Boston. Passenger service at this time was infrequent and unreliable, clearly limiting suburban development. After the Back Bay project was completed, passenger service improved somewhat, but not until the line became part of the Circuit Railroad in 1886, did the suburbanization of Newton Centre intensify.

At the foot of Institution Hill, near the Newton Centre Railroad Station, land belonging to the Newton Theological Institution was soon surveyed and put up for auction. To this day, the campus and adjacent residential neighborhood remain buffered from the commercial activity of Newton Centre's business district by the railroad tracks.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

NEWTON THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTION HISTORIC DISTRICT

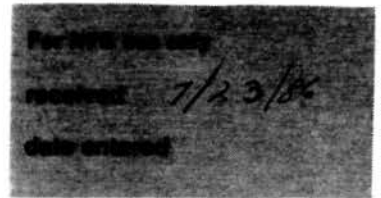
Address	S-B-L	Historic Name	Date	C/NC	Style	Inven.#	Area
70 Chase St.	65-19-17	John Sanborn House	c.1876	C	Mansard	NC-147	24,820
63 A Herrick Rd.	65-19-9A		1868	NC	altered	-----	4,837
63 Herrick Rd.	65-19-9		1868	C	Italianate	NC-317	9,049
73 Herrick Rd.	65-19-10		c.1877	C	Italianate	-----	21,638
83 Herrick Rd.	65-19-11		c.1884	C	Queen Anne	-----	18,230
91 Herrick Rd.	65-19-12		1884	C	Queen Anne	NC-320	11,021
97-99 Herrick Rd.	65-19-45		c.1863	NC	altered	-----	*
102 Herrick Rd.	65-19-16		1882	C	Q.A./Stick	NC-320A	18,044
109-11 Herrick Rd.	65-19-45		c.1862	NC	altered	-----	*
112 Herrick Rd.	65-19-15	LOT					22,380
120 Herrick Rd.	65-19-14		1906	C	Colonial Rev	NC-320B	15,000
125 Herrick Rd.	65-19-45	Dean's House	1939, 1962	NC			*
128 Herrick Rd.	65-19-13	LOT					16,272
141 Herrick Rd.	65-19-45	Colby Chapel (Listed NRHP 1978)	1866	C	Romanesque	5	*
144 Herrick Rd.	65-19-45	Herrick House	1932	NC			*
157 Herrick Rd.	65-19-45	Farwell Hall	1829, 1857	C	Fed, Mansard	-----	*
165 Herrick Rd.	65-19-45	Supt's House	c.1889	NC	altered	-----	*
164 Cypress St.	65-19-45	Boiler House	1895	NC	altered	-----	*
169 Herrick Rd.	65-19-45	Hills Library	1894	C	Classical Rev	-----	*
196 Herrick Rd.	65-19-45	President's House	1899	C	Colonial Rev	-----	*
197 Herrick Rd.	65-19-45	Sturtevant Hall	1872	C	Mansard	-----	*
210 Herrick Rd.	65-19-45	Administration Bldg.	1936	NC			*
211 Herrick Rd.	65-19-45	Gymnasium	c.1890	C	Colonial Rev	-----	*
215 Herrick Rd.	65-19-45	Noyes Hall	1936	NC			*
225 Herrick Rd.	65-19-45	Kendall Hall	1954	NC			*
230 Herrick Rd.	65-19-45	Worcester Hall	1965	NC			*
235 Herrick Rd.	65-19-45	Appleton-Chase Hall	1967	NC			*
239 Herrick Rd.	65-19-45		1957	NC			*
240 Herrick Rd.	65-19-45	Stoddard Hall	1966	NC			*

(*buildings marked with an asterisk are all located on 65-19-45 with a total area of 1,788,233 square feet)

29 properties with an area of 1,949,524 square feet (acres).
 28 buildings, 14 non-contributing; 1 vacant lot

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



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

Aelores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

12. Newton Theological Institution
Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Aelores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

13. Newton Upper Falls
Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Aelores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

14. Newtonville Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Aelores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

15. Old Chestnut Hill
Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Aelores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

16. Our Lady Help of Christians
Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Aelores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

17. Putnam Street Historic
District

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Aelores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

18. Sumner and Gibbs Streets
Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Aelores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

19. Union Street Historic
District

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Aelores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

20. Webster Park Historic
District

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Aelores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

Landscape
86001749

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Newton Theological Institution Historic District
(Newton MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

JUL 23 1986

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 8/21/86 - 9/6/86
Action: ACCEPT 9-4-86
 RETURN
 REJECT

Entered in the
National Register

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

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
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- 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

Acreege 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. O.K.
 can property index with lot number*

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Missing Core Documentation

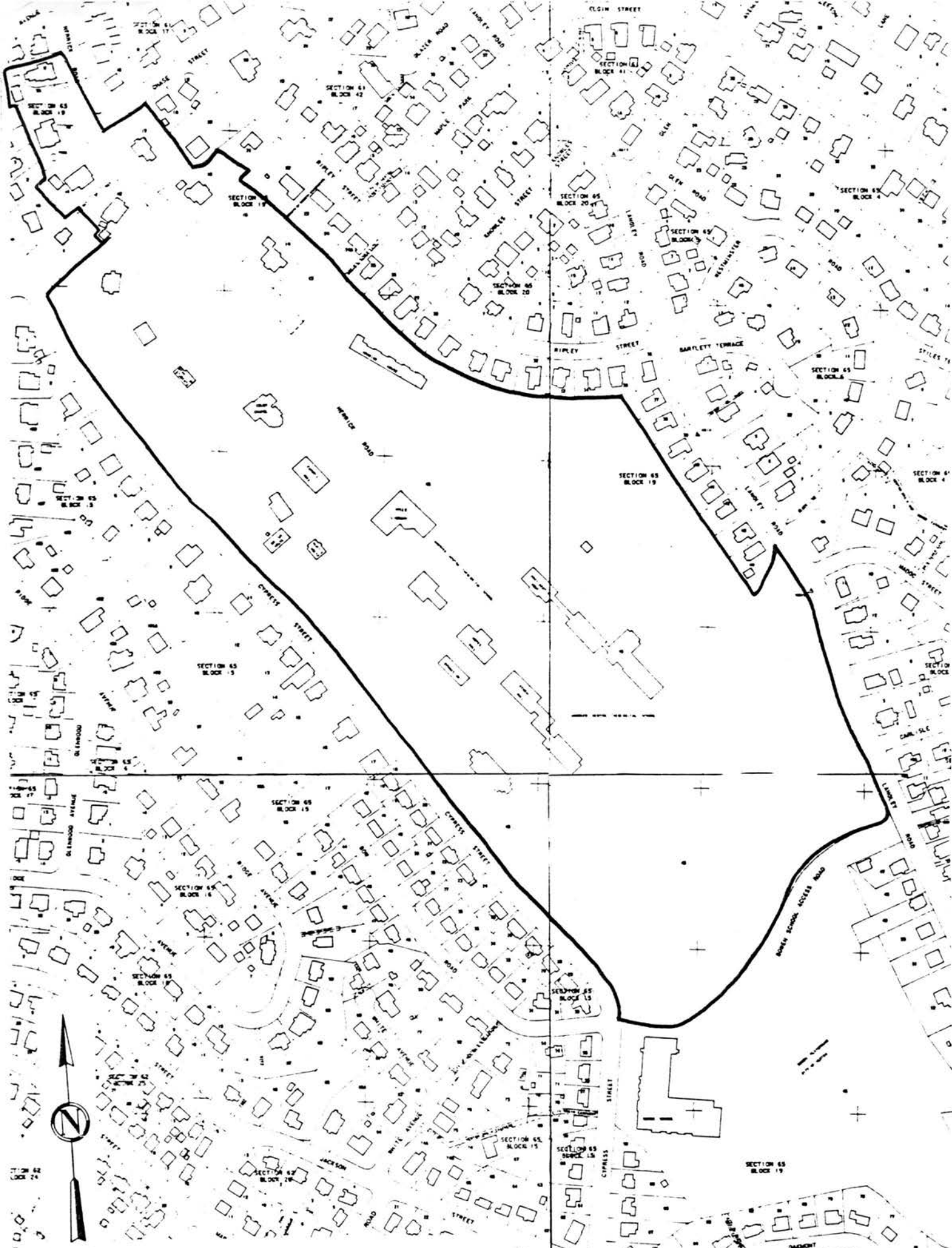
Property Name County, State	Multiple Property Name	Reference Number
Newton Theological Institution Historic District Middlesex County, Massachusetts	Newton MRA	86001749

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

Nomination Form

Photographs

USGS Map



Newton Theological Institute
Historic District, Newton Centre



Andover Newton Theological School

Newton Centre, Massachusetts 02159

617-964-1100

VT * 52K
file w/NR
RECEIVED

MAY -5 1986

MASS. HIST. COMM.

May 2, 1986

Valerie A. Talmage, Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Office
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Dear Ms Talmage:

On behalf of Andover Newton Theological School I am in receipt of your communication relative to this institution finding itself in a district destined to be nominated for placement in the National Historic Register. The School is delighted to learn of this and will certainly accept the honor which this represents. The institution, the site and the buildings in many cases, are appropriate to the designation. The history of the School also qualifies since Andover Newton is the oldest Protestant graduate school of theology in the country.

Does it count if Samuel Francis Smith, author of "America," wrote the piece in 1832 while enrolled here as a student? That is a fact.

It may be important to note that one building of the School, and on its original site here, is already distinguished by being listed in the Register. Colby Hall, erected in 1866, was so designated in 1978 if memory serves me.

If anything further is required of us, please be in touch. It may be that we will not be represented at the gatherings referred to in your letter of April 18, 1986 but this does not suggest any lack of interest or willingness to participate.

Very truly yours,

Verne C. Edmunds
Vice President for Finance and Management

VCE:SC