

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AUG 21 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Town WalthamAddress 416-24 Moody StreetHistoric Name Stark BuildingUse: Present commercial/residentialOriginal commercial/manufacturing

DESCRIPTION

Date 1891Source date plaque on buildingStyle Panel Brick/Queen AnneArchitect unknownExterior Wall Fabric brickOutbuildings n/aMajor Alterations (with dates) storefrontsc1960Condition goodMoved no Date n/aAcreage 9,985 sq. ft. 0.23 69-18-17Setting unusually well-preserved remnant ofMoody Street's turn-of-the-centurycommercial character.Recorded by Ed GordonOrganization Waltham Historical 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).



JOHN STARK

ENGLISH,
Originator and Pioneer manufacturer of the Spring Chuck Lathe.
DEUTSCH,
Erfinder und erster Fabrikant der Feder-Bohrkopfdrehbank.
FRANCAIS,
L'Inventeur et le premier fabricant des tours à mandrins à ressort.
ESPAÑOL,
El inventor y primer fabricante de los Tornos de mandril de Resorte.
(catologue #57 Stark Tool Co.) N.D.

UTM REFERENCE 19/315770/4692940USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTONSCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Stark Building possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It is significant for its historical associations with Waltham's dominant watch industry, representing the many small-scale spin-off enterprises of the Waltham Watch Company. It is also important as a good example of the Panel Brick/Queen Anne style, and as a well preserved commercial block in an area of Moody Street that has been heavily impacted by drastic alterations. It is one of the few structures that continues to reflect Moody Street's turn-of-the-century character as Waltham's most fashionable shopping area. The Stark Building 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.

The Stark Building is a well-detailed brick commercial block located in the center of the block bounded by Cushing Street (N) and Chestnut Street (S); it is several blocks south of the proposed Moody Street Historic District. It is a handsome and well-preserved example of the Panel Brick/Queen Anne style featuring grouped windows, brownstone beltcourses and terracotta panels. Despite storefront alterations, retention of the above mentioned features is highly unusual in this section of Moody Street where most buildings have been radically altered. The upper stories are asymmetrically composed with brick piers of varying width separating triple window bays. Brownstone beltcourses separate the stories, and frame terracotta panels beneath the triple windows. The brick piers which break through the stepped cornice, are treated with recessed panels and brownstone coping. Storefronts have been aluminum clad but seem to retain their original configuration.

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

The Stark Building was constructed by John Stark, Jr. after he took over his father's flourishing business producing watchmakers' lathes and tools. John Stark, Sr. immigrated to Waltham from Glasgow, Scotland in 1849. He learned the machinist's trade at the Boston Manufacturing Company before beginning the manufacture of watchmakers' lathes with the firm of Adams, Stark and Lloyd in 1862. By 1865, he was the sole proprietor of John Stark and Son. In 1870, the business was moved to Moody Street, near Chestnut Street. The Stark's were engaged primarily in the production watchmakers' tools and lathes, but also manufactured built-to-order machinery and tools for various watch and clock factories. Several Stark products were particularly well known, including the Stark Main Spring Winder. It was called "the only practical main spring winder on the market", receiving recommendations from the superintendent of the U.S. Watch Company, and the foremen of important departments of the American Watch Company. The Stark Company may be viewed as a representative of the small-scale spin-off enterprises associated with Waltham's dominant watch industry.

John Stark, Jr. took over the flourishing business, which now included machinists' lathes and other equipment, upon his father's death in 1887. The profits of the Stark Tool Co. enabled John Stark Jr. to erect the large

(cont)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Bacon, George F., "Representative Businessmen of Waltham", 1893.
- Maps and Atlases. 1874, 1886, 1898, 1900.
- Sanderson, Edmund L. Waltham Industries.
- "The City of Waltham, Massachusetts: Its Advantages to Manufacturers and as a Place of Residence", author unknown.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE - 416-424 Moody Street, continued

three-story building between the machine shop (now remodeled) and the street. Late 19th century atlases show three contiguous wooden structures to the rear of the property. The Stark Building originally housed the Waltham Clock Co. and other commercial tenants. John Stark Jr. also was a partner in the Waltham Clock Co. This company manufactured high grade clocks between 1892 and 1913. It was absorbed by the Waltham Watch Company in 1913.

"WALTHAM Souvenir" - 1905



JOHN STARK

STARK TOOL CO.,
John Stark, rear Moody St.

Never a shut down and never a cut down, is the record of the Stark Tool Co., established in 1862 by John Stark, and continued with growing fame and unquestioned solidity by his oldest son John Stark, one of its citizens of whom Waltham is most proud. The Company manufactures watchmakers' and clock makers' tools, precision and fine mechanical devices of every description, its development being due to the foresight and progress of its management, that has noted the trend of affairs and has always been in advance of them. It was the first concern in the country to manufacture bench lathes and its reliability is sustained in its trade, by the patronage of houses at present, for whom the Stark Co. made tools 30 years ago. The enterprise in 1862 was the fourth industry to be founded in this city. It was a modest beginning and in 1867 the company built its own factory, constant additions making it the present complete establishment, rear of Moody street. Some 20 skilled hands are employed and 15,000 square feet occupied. The products go to every corner of the civilized world, a recent large shipment having gone to Japan, and a later order to England, to a man for whom similar tools were built 30 years ago. John Stark was born in Scotland, in 1847, and when 18 months old was brought to this country, and was educated in the schools this community afforded. In

1862 he began working with his father, and in 1880 was taken into partnership, becoming proprietor in '87, at the demise of his parent. The business had been gaining in strength, volume and fame, and under the present management has continued a constantly progressive and ambitious course, the welfare of Waltham always being considered by Mr. Stark as well as his individual interests. It was he who induced an aluminum company to locate here and it was his influence that brought the Waltham Electric Clock Co., now the W. C. Co. to this city. He was one of the organizers of the first Board of Trade, and who was willing to contribute personally when some advantage could be secured for the municipality. He is a Director of the Business Men's Association, has served on the License Board and is at present a member of the School Board. He is a member of the Masonic Fraternity, I. O. O. F. and Red Men. As a business man Mr. Stark is one whose word is as good as his bond. He is known for his strict integrity, broad minded disposition, and just consideration of all industrial affairs. He is alert and keeps abreast of modern methods and demands, so that his factory products are eminent in invention and durability. His interest in Waltham is unique and he has witnessed its growth with loyal pleasure, and has demonstrated his public spirit by encouraging substantially any project that promised profit or credit to this city.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

W 21tham, MA

Form No:

46

Property Name: 416-424 Moody St.

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



JOHN STARK, Manufacturer of American Combination Lathe, for Watchmakers' and Manufacturers' Use; also Manufacturer of Watchmakers' Tools, Waltham, Mass.—Mr. John Stark is a native of Scotland, but he has carried on operations here in Waltham for 30 years, and is one of the best known business men in the city, especially in mechanical circles, he being an expert mechanic, and also manufacturer of the famous American Combination Lathe, and of watchmakers' tools which are acknowledged to be unsurpassed, while some of them are conceded to be unequalled. The new and improved machinists' bench lathe made by him is especially designed for the use of electricians, machinists, astronomical and surgical instrument makers, and for the manufacture of fine machinists' tools and machinery of every description. It is the only lathe having that great improvement, the anti-friction adjustable ball bearing for lathe spindles, and its usefulness is

really remarkable, it being capable of performing the greater part of the work generally done on the speed and engine lathes. All lathes and attachments furnished by Mr. Stark are warranted perfect, and they are supplied at very moderate rates, considering the excellence of the material and the fineness of the workmanship. Another specialty of his—the Stark Main Spring Winder—is even more worthy of praise if possible, it being the only practical main spring winder in the market, and being highly recommended by such experts as the superintendent of the United States Watch Co., and the foremen of four important departments in the works of the American Watch Co. The premises utilized by Mr. Stark are located in the rear of No. 222 Moody street, and are very well equipped for the doing of a general machine business, in addition to manufacturing the articles mentioned and watchmakers' tools and supplies in general. Stark's old style lathes will be refitted and repaired at moderate rates, and sufficient assistance is employed and ample facilities are available to warrant the prompt filling of all orders.

From: "Representative Business Men of Waltham - Geo. Bacon
1893 - p. 85

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Waltham, Ma.

Form No:

46

Property Name: Stark's Building
416-424 Moody St

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

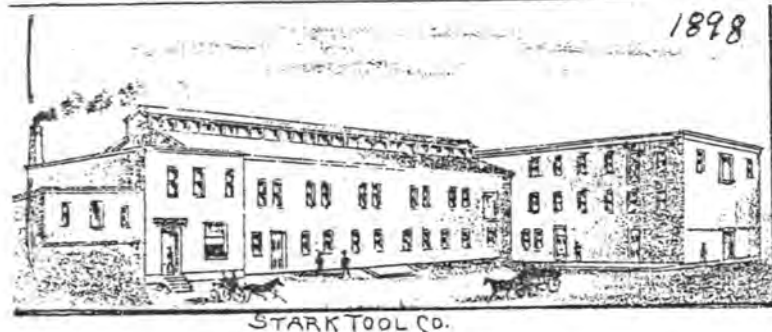


the bowed window bays appear to be an exaggeration



F. L. GRAVES, Dealer in Furniture, Bedding, Stoves, Ranges, Carpets, Oil Cloths, Baby Carriages, Refrigerators, &c., Stark's New Brick Building, No. 224 Moody Street, near Chestnut, Waltham, Mass.—One of the most notable manifestations of the consequences of the improved methods of production and almost universal facilities for cheap transportation characteristic of the age, is that afforded by the improvement in quality and reduction in price of furniture; the results attained in this direction making it possible to furnish a house handsomely and fashionably for a very small amount of money, comparatively speaking. We assume, of course, that judgment be exercised in placing the order, and in this connection, we may fittingly make mention of the advantages offered by Mr. F. L. Graves, doing business at 224 Moody St., in Stark's new brick building, near Chestnut street, for he deals not only in furniture, but also in bedding, stoves, ranges, carpets, oil cloths, baby carriages, refrigerators, etc., and quotes positively the lowest market rates on articles correct in style and reliable in quality. This establishment was opened to the public in 1890 by the present proprietor, who was for several years with Messrs. P. H. Graves & Son, and the excellent reputation attained under his management is steadily kept up, and extends from its inception. The premises utilized comprise five floors, each of the dimensions of 30x60 feet, and a correspondingly large and complete stock is carried, including the latest productions of the leading manufacturers, and embracing goods suited to all tastes and all purses. Three efficient assistants are employed, thus assuring prompt and careful attention to every caller, and the delivery of orders at very short notice; all goods are guaranteed to prove just as represented and bottom prices quoted on all the articles dealt in.

FROM: Representative Businessmen of Waltham
1893



STARK TOOL CO.

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

Date/Signature

81. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church Complex *Substantive Review* *SN* Keeper Betty L. Sauer 9/28/89
Attest _____
82. Stanley, Leonard W., House *Entered in the National Register* Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
83. Stark Building *Entered in the National Register* Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
84. Stark, Robert M., House *Entered in the National Register* Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
85. Stearns, Amos, House *Entered in the National Register* Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
86. Stewart, Henry, House *Entered in the National Register* Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
87. Swasey, James, House *Entered in the National Register* Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
88. Tyler, Frank J., House *Entered in the National Register* Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
89. United States Watch Company *Entered in the National Register* Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
90. Waltham Gas Light Company *Entered in the National Register* Keeper Helene 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 Stark Building
NAME:

MULTIPLE Waltham MRA
NAME:

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: 89001542

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
☐ UTM's ☐ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☐ USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



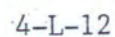
MHC # 46
416-424 Moody St.
Waltham, MA MA A
Starke Building



WALTHAM, MA MRA

Stark Building #46
416-424 Moody Street
1" = 100'
1975; updated to 1987
Waltham Engineering Dept.

lot #69-18-17



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301