

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
	LF 42

Town Newton, Mass. MRA  
NEWTON (Lower Falls)

Address 26 Quinobequin Road

Historic Name Allan Crocker Curtis House  
Pillar House

Use: Present restaurant

Original residence

**DESCRIPTION**

Date 1845

Source Registry of Deeds, 462:111

Style Greek Revival

Architect William Lyon

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboards

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) converted  
to restaurant 1952; additions on  
side and rear elevations

Condition Good.

Moved no Date ---

Acreege 87,868 sq. ft. (2 acres)

Setting Isolated residence/restaurant,  
encircled by Route 128, highway ramps  
and major thoroughfares

Recorded by Deborah Shea

Organization Newton Historical Comm.

Date May 1981

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 19.314300.4688340

USGS QUADRANGLE NATICK, MA

SCALE 1:25,000

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

As a well-detailed example of high-style Greek Revival architecture in Newton, as the home of one of Lower Falls' prominent residents, and for its association with the paper industry in Lower Falls, the Allen C. Curtis House meets criteria A, B, 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.

This stately mansion, lately the Pillar House Restaurant, is an excellent example of the mansion type Greek Revival architecture at its height. The structure is set gable end to the street, and features a monumental 2-1/2-story portico that transforms the street facade into a classical pediment. The facade is sheathed with flush boards, a technique inspired by the masonry construction of the Greek originals, while side elevations are clapboard. Embellished Roman Ionic pilasters frame the corners of the residence and support a full entablature, on the side elevations. The entrance is on the south elevation, though its detail has been altered during later restaurant renovations. The south colonnade is also now enclosed. The principal windows are floor-to-ceiling, while upper-story windows are 6/6 sash and capped with peaked lintels.

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

Allen C. Curtis (1789-1871) was a prosperous paper manufacturer as well as prominent in local politics. His distinctive Greek Revival mansion was designed and built by William Lyon, a housewright from Needham. The contract, dated May 24, 1845, and detailed specifications are recorded at the Middlesex County Registry of Deeds. The house was to be completed "in a good workmanlike manner" by October, for a \$3575.00 payment, a sizeable sum for the day. Lyon also constructed William Curtis' residence on Washington Street (1839, see #128), as well as several cottages on Grove Street (Area C).

Allen and his brother William Curtis inherited their father Solomon Curtis' interest in the Curtis Paper Mill in 1818, after their father's death. They were among the earliest to install Fourdrinier machines in their mills (1828), enabling the company to manufacture paper on a continuous roll. In 1831 the brothers acquired full interest in the mill. They continued to expand the company, and in 1834 built larger stone mills located on the island in the middle of the Charles River. Newsprint and fine book papers were a speciality of the mill, though its also manufactured banknote paper for a bank in Dedham. The stone foundations and some gable end walls are still visible, incorporated into later

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Newton's 19th Century Architecture: Upper & Lower Falls (1982).  
M.F. Sweetser, King's Handbook of Newton (1889).  
Clarence A. Wiswall, One Hundred Years of Paper Making (Reading, 1938).  
Newton's Older Houses: Newton Lower Falls, publication #8, Jackson Homestead, 1974.  
Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Book 462-111, 112, 113.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: NEWTON, MASS. MRA	Form No: LF-42
Property Name: 26 Quinobequin Rd.	

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

construction behind 2284 Washington Street. Business conditions just prior to the Civil War forced the brothers to close the 68-year old business. The company was subsequently sold.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received 7/23/86  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Newton MRA  
State Middlesex County, MA

Nomination/Type of Review	Entered in the National Register	Keeper	Date/Signature
31. Buckingham, John, House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper	<u>Selous Byers</u> 9/4/86
		Attest	
32. Building at 1--6 Walnut Terrace	Entered in the National Register	Keeper	<u>Selous Byers</u> 9/4/86
		Attest	
33. Central Congregational Church	Entered in the National Register	Keeper	<u>Selous Byers</u> 9/4/86
		Attest	
34. Chestnut Hill, The	Entered in the National Register	Keeper	<u>Selous Byers</u> 9/4/86
		Attest	
35. Claflin, Adams, Estate	Entered in the National Register	Keeper	<u>Selous Byers</u> 9/4/86
		Attest	
36. Clark House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper	<u>Selous Byers</u> 9/4/86
		Attest	
37. Collins, Frederick, House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper	<u>Selous Byers</u> 9/4/86
		Attest	
38. Curtis, Allan Crocker, House--Pillar House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper	<u>Selous Byers</u> 9/4/86
		Attest	
39. Curtis, William, House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper	<u>Selous Byers</u> 9/4/86
		Attest	
40. Davis, Seth, House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper	<u>Selous Byers</u> 9/4/86
		Attest	

86001787

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Curtis, Allan Crocker, House--Pillar House  
(Newton MRA)  
Middlesex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

JUL 23 1986

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/37

Date Due: 8/21/86 - 9/6/86

Action:  ACCEPT 9-4-86

\_\_\_\_\_ RETURN \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

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

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	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

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**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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



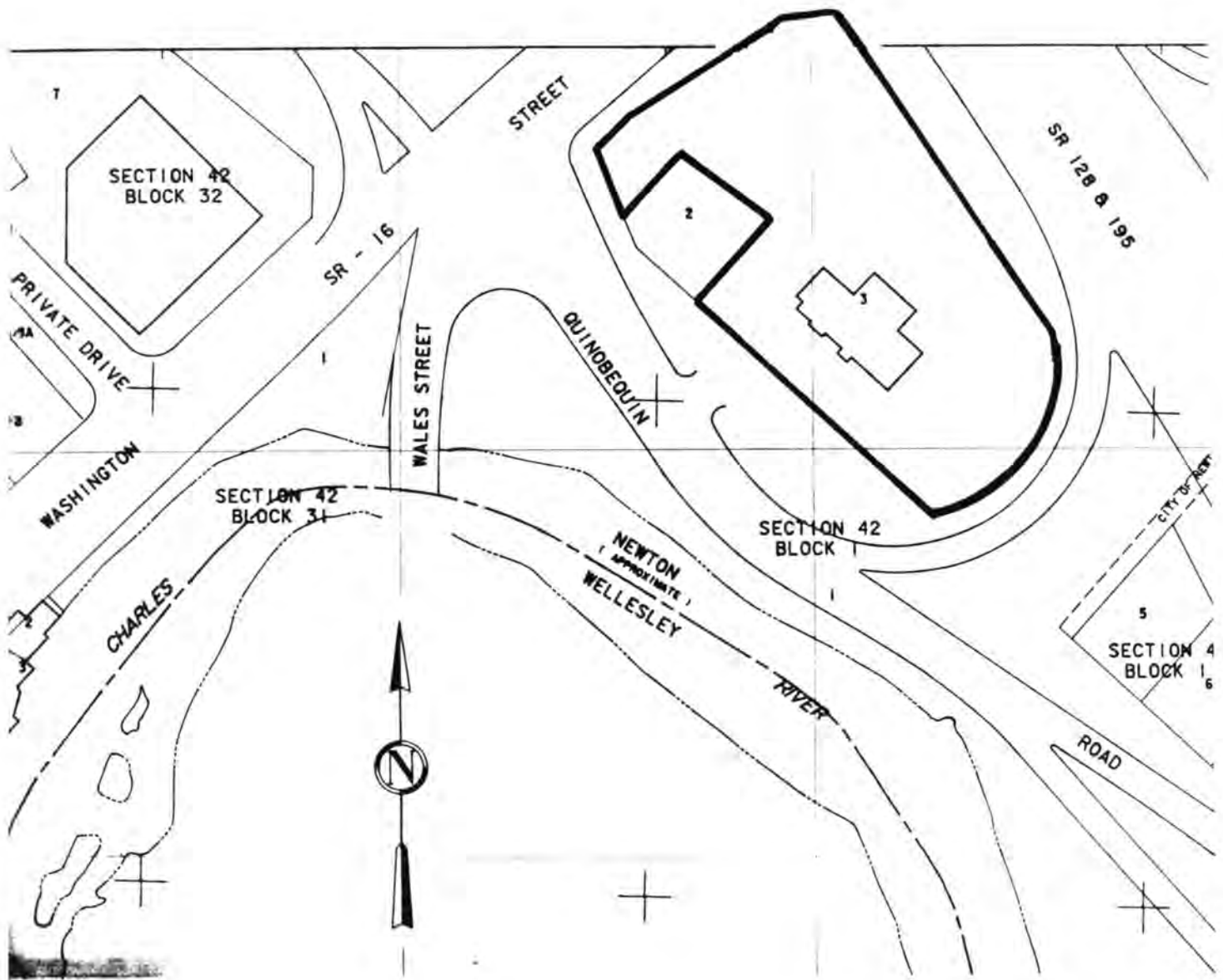
Newton, Mass. MRA

26 Quinobequin Rd., N. Lower Falls

(Allan Crocker Curtis House)

Inv. #LF 42





Newton, Mass. MRA  
 26 Quinobequin Rd., N. Lower Falls  
 (Allan Crocker Curtis House)  
 42-1-3

City of Newton Assessor's Maps, Sheet 98  
 Metric Series, 1979  
 Scale: UTM grid line interval = 100 meters (328 feet)