

AUG 21 1989

1535

AREA

FORM NO.

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

NATIONAL
REGISTER

WALTHAM, MA MRA
Waltham, Massachusetts

Town

Address

163-165 River Street
153-155 River Street

Historic Name

Boston Manufacturing

Company Housing

Use Present

Double residence

Original

Double residence

DESCRIPTION

Date

c. 1870

Source

deed research

Style

Mansard

Architect

unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric

brick

Outbuildings

garages-NC

Major Alterations (with dates) slate

shingles removed from #153-155--c1970s?

Condition

good

Moved

no

Date

n/a

Acreage

33,649 sq.ft. 0.8 A

71-1-17
70-11-6

Setting

Situating on ample, hedge

-bordered lots in area of primarily

wood-frame, late 19th c. worker's

houses. all altered

Recorded by

Edward W. Gordon

Organization

Waltham Hist. Comm.

Date

June, 1986

revised by C. Jenkins 3/88

Photo (3"x 3" 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

UTM REFERENCE

19/317030 /4693060

USGS QUADRANGLE

NEWTON

SCALE

1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

~~163-165~~ 153 and 155 River Street are two significant examples of the Boston Manufacturing Company's most substantial worker housing. They are the only examples of B.M.C. masonry housing. In general, these houses represent an unusually stylish (for late 19th eastern Massachusetts worker's housing) foray into the Mansard style. This pair of houses possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and associations. They meet 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.

These double workers houses are unique among Waltham workers housing by virtue of their relatively substantial size, brick materials and stylish Mansard roofs. These houses stand in marked contrast to the 4 heavily altered, early 1870's, wood-framed B.M.C. worker's houses located directly behind these properties. Essentially T-shaped in plan, the houses' main 4-bay x 2-bay main blocks are crowned by straight sided Mansard roofs. #163-165 retains its original slates. Symmetrical four bay facades display narrow, paired entries with transoms, and windows with 2/2 sash; all are headed by stilted segmental raised brick arches. Narrow brickwork string courses appear beneath one and two and just above the third floor windows. The Mansard windows feature 4 dormers on the main and rear facade, and 2 dormers per side wall. These dormers are topped by projecting arched lintels.

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

#153-155, 163-165 River Street were build ca.1870. Judging by their size, style and masonry materials, these double-houses were built for upper echelon Boston Manufacturing Company employees. In general, B.M.C. housing is moderately-scaled and constructed of wood. The land of these properties was part of a large parcel sold to BMC by Isaac Parker, May 9, 1873 (see Middlesex Deeds 1259:408). The construction of these double houses and the c.1870's wood frame workers cottages to the rear mirror on a domestic scale the expansion of the BMC factory between Moody and Elm Streets during the 1870's and 1880's.

Founded in 1813, the B.M.C."integrated and mechanized production from raw material to finished product under a single management, and within a single factory. This textile mill's 19th century prosperity was the primary force behind the development of the area between the east side of the Waltham's common and the Watertown line. By 1901, the Boston Manufacturing Company had sold these houses (part of a much larger, multi-lot package) to Boston real estate magnate Saimen Sirk. Sirk, in turn, sold these properties to the Waltham Bleachery in December, 1906.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps/Atlases: 1854, 1874, 1881, 1886, 1900, 1911
McQuiston, James W., "The Waltham Bleachery and Dye Works", date unknown,
Waltham Public Library archives
Middlesex County deeds- 2889:421, 3271:363

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 GroupName Waltham MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Boston Manufacturing Company Housing (153--165 River St.) Entered in the National Register ☒ Keeper Shelous Byers 9/28/89 Attest _____
12. Brigham House Entered in the National Register ☒ Keeper Shelous Byers 9/28/89 Attest _____
13. Building at 202--204 Charles Street Entered in the National Register ☒ Keeper Shelous Byers 9/28/89 Attest _____
14. Buttrick, Francis, House Entered in the National Register ☒ Keeper Shelous Byers 9/28/89 Attest _____
- See 15. Buttrick, Francis, Library ☒ Substantive Review ☒ Keeper Beth X. Savage 9/28/89 Attest _____
16. Byam, Charles, House Entered in the National Register ☒ Keeper Shelous Byers 9/28/89 Attest _____
17. Central Square Historic District Entered in the National Register ☒ Keeper Shelous Byers 9/28/89 Attest _____
18. Charles Street Workers' Housing Historic District Entered in the National Register ☒ Keeper Shelous Byers 9/28/89 Attest _____
- See 19. Christ Episcopal Church ☒ Substantive Review ☒ Keeper Beth X. Savage 9/28/89 Attest _____
20. Clough, Benjamin F., House Entered in the National Register ☒ Keeper Shelous 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 Boston Manufacturing Company Housing
NAME: 153-165- River St.

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: 89001535

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

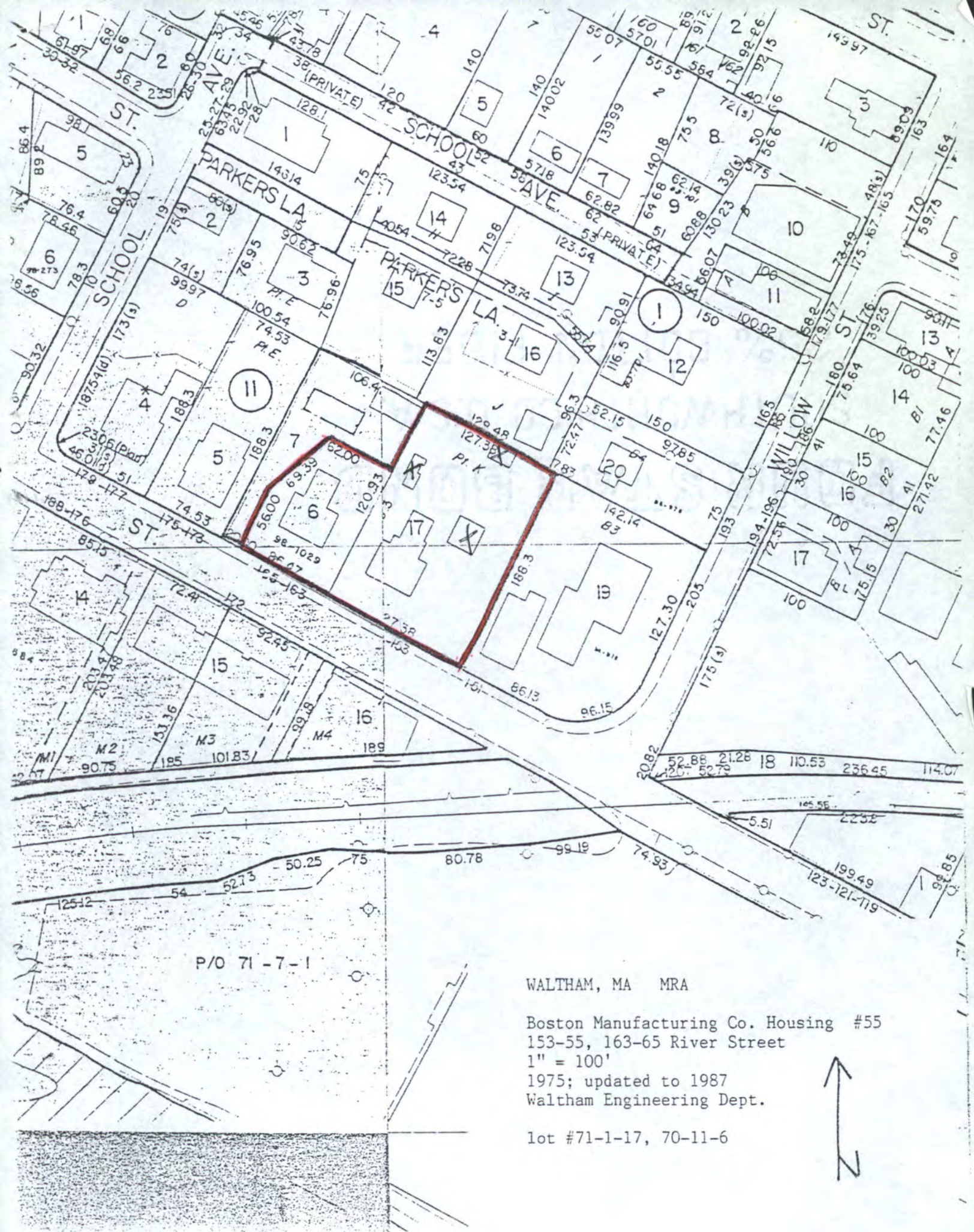
Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



Boston Manufacturing Company Hosiery

River St -
153-155, 163-165 ~~Handy~~
NOTE #55
Waltham, MA - MRA



P/O 71-7-1

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Boston Manufacturing Co. Housing #55
 153-55, 163-65 River Street
 1" = 100'
 1975; updated to 1987
 Waltham Engineering Dept.

lot #71-1-17, 70-11-6

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301