

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
	128

Town Newton, Mass. MRA
NEWTON (Lower Falls)

Address 2330 Washington Street

Historic Name _____

William Curtis House

Use: Present offices

Original residence

DESCRIPTION

Date 1839

Source Registry of Deeds

Style Greek Revival

Architect William Lyon

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboards

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition Good

Moved no Date ---

Acreage 28,277 sq. ft. (less than 1 acre)

Setting Faces busy commercial

highway; most adjoining properties

demolished in urban renewal program;

Charles River to the rear.

Recorded by Peter Stott

Organization Newton Historical Comm.

Date April 1986

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 19.313990.4688150

USGS QUADRANGLE NATICK, MA

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

As an important example of transitional Federal/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 William 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.

The 2-1/2-story residence, completed in 1839 for the paper mill owner William Curtis, represents a Federal-period house form dressed in the formal Greek Revival style that came into fashion in the 1830s. The traditional five-bay center entrance facade indicates a center-hall plan, with probably four major rooms on the ground floor. Federal inspiration is shown by the four end chimneys. Most prominent of the Greek Revival elements applied to the exterior are the two-story two-story corner pilasters supporting a wide paneled frieze and gable-end pediments. Porches feature Doric columns, and around the door are side and transom lights. A two-story, recessed wing extends the house to the west.

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

This house was the second house of William Curtis (1795-1880), son of the founder of the Curtis paper mills, Solomon Curtis. After their father's death in 1818, William Curtis and his brother Allen C. Curtis inherited their father's interest. 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 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.

William had married Sarah Murdock in 1823 and settled in a house further up Washington Street (now demolished). The construction of the new house in 1839 is a reflection of the prosperity of the paper mills, then one of the largest in New England. Needham housewright William Lyon is credited with building this house for Curtis. Lyon was also responsible

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.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: NEWTON, MASS. MRA	Form No: 128
Property Name: 2330 Washington St.	

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

for building several houses on Grove Street, as well as Allen Curtis's 1845
Greek Revival mansion (see #LF-42).

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

86001788

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Curtis, William, House (Newton MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 7 JUL 23 1986 / 2/3/87
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"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

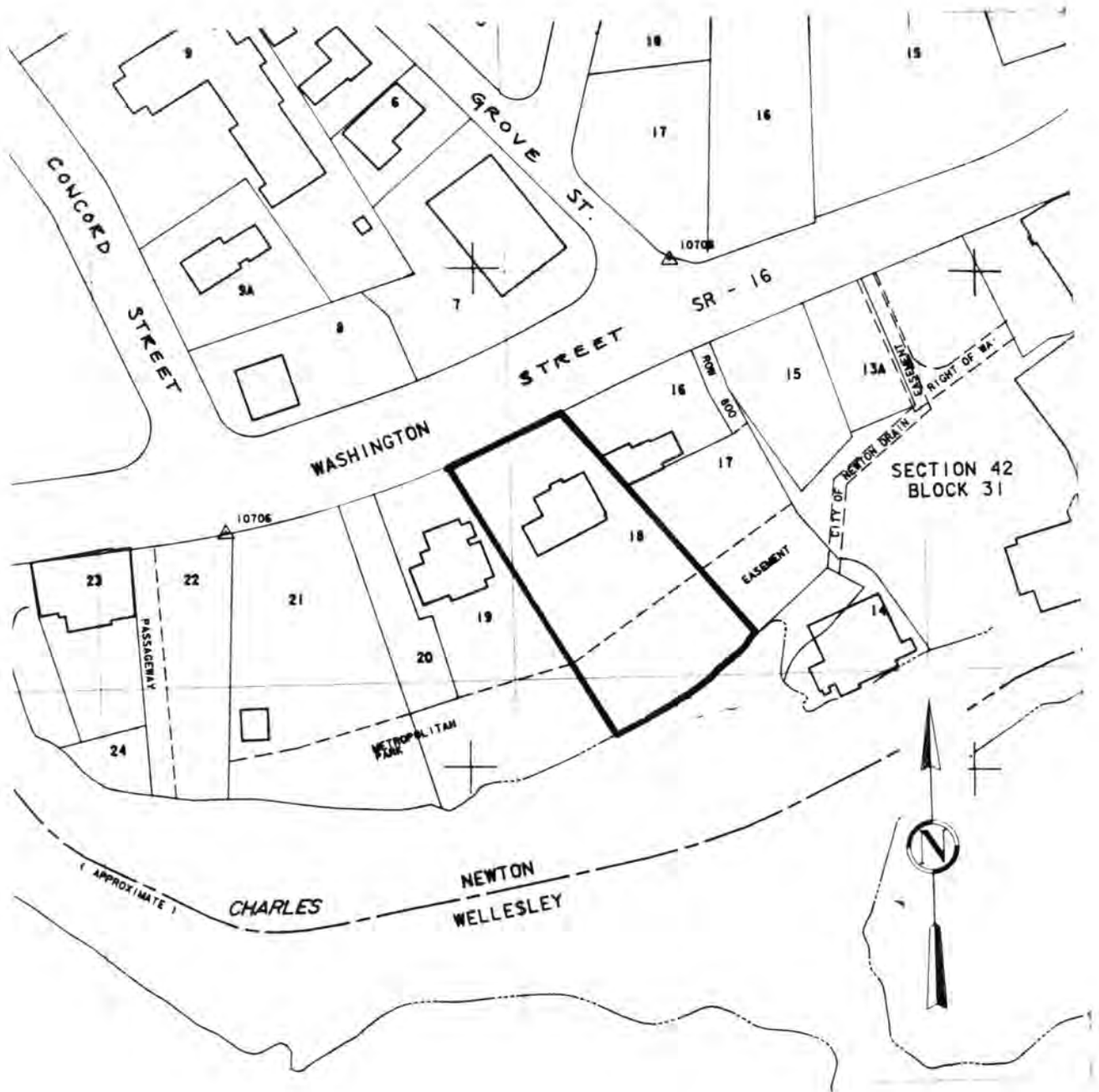
- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection



Newton, Mass. MRA
2330 Washington St.,
(William Curtis House)
Inv. #128

APR 1986





City of Newton Assessor's Maps. Sheet 97
 Metric Series. 1979
 Scale: UTM grid line interval = 100 meters (328 feet)

Newton, Mass. MRA
 2330 Washington St., Lower Falls
 (William Curtis House)
 42-31-18