

MAY 23 1989

730

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
D	293

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Wakefield

Address 23 Avon Street

Historic Name NA

Use: Present Dwelling/Offices

Original Dwelling

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

DESCRIPTION

Date c. 1855

Source Map of 1857

Style Italianate

Architect NA

Exterior Wall Fabric clanboards

Outbuildings Garage, noncontributing
c. 1940s

Major Alterations (with dates) one and two story additions on north c. 190

Condition Fair

Moved NA Date NA

Acreage Under one acre

Setting faces south on raised lot behind granite embankment

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 19/329600/4707635

USGS QUADRANGLE Reading, Mass.

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Architectural Preservation Associates

Organization Wakefield Historical Commission

Date March 1985

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

A well preserved and very high style example of Italianate design, this house stands out among a number of similarly styled houses in the surrounding neighborhood. It retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and meets criterion C of the NRHP on the local level.

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

This is a very high style Italianate house in an area of town where a number of fine Italianate houses were built and remain. It was originally T-shaped in plan with its gable end to the street, a common house plan from the Greek Revival period onward. It is 2½ stories in height and has a wide eaves overhang supported on paired, scrolled brackets suggesting Italian villas. Windows have cornice lintels and sills are footed. The one story wing porch has panelled pillars as supports and scrolled brackets. The arched gable window is an Italianate motif as well.

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

Avon Street was laid out in 1848 on land owned by the heirs of Lemuel Sweetser, who had lived on Main Street and owned a large section of land stretching from Main to North Avenue. Sweetser was a shoe manufacturer who was influential in the Baptist Society and in the founding of the South Reading Academy. Within a decade of his death in 1835 the town's population was growing rapidly. Between 1840 and 1850 it grew by 900, and the addition of Avon Street to the town center provided house lots for many new residents. Opened during a period of relative prosperity, Avon Street was built up with high quality homes which helped shift the balance of development of finer residences towards the west side of town, a situation which continued throughout the second half of the 19th century.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 5, Page 57.
Hurd, D. Hamilton, (ed.). History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, vol II, Philadelphia, 1890.
Maps of 1857 (M. Bolles), 1874 (Oliver Perkins), 1889 (S. A. Clough).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Wakefield MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- 41. ~~House at 23 Avon Street~~ Entered in the National Register Keeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89
Attest _____
- 42. House at 23 Lawrence Street Entered in the National Register Keeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89
Attest _____
- 43. House at 25 Avon Street Entered in the National Register Keeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89
Attest _____
- 44. House at 26 Francis Avenue Entered in the National Register Keeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89
Attest _____
- 45. House at 28 Cordis Street Entered in the National Register Keeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89
Attest _____
- 46. House at 28 Wiley Street Entered in the National Register Keeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89
Attest _____
- 47. House at 30 Sheffield Road Entered in the National Register Keeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89
Attest _____
- 48. House at 32 Morrison Road Entered in the National Register Keeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89
Attest _____
- 49. House at 38 Salem Street Entered in the National Register Keeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89
Attest _____
- 50. House at 380 Albion Street Entered in the National Register Keeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89
Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: House at 23 Avon Street

MULTIPLE NAME: Wakefield MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 5/23/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/06/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/22/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/07/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000730

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 7/6/89 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

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



D 293

23 Arm St.

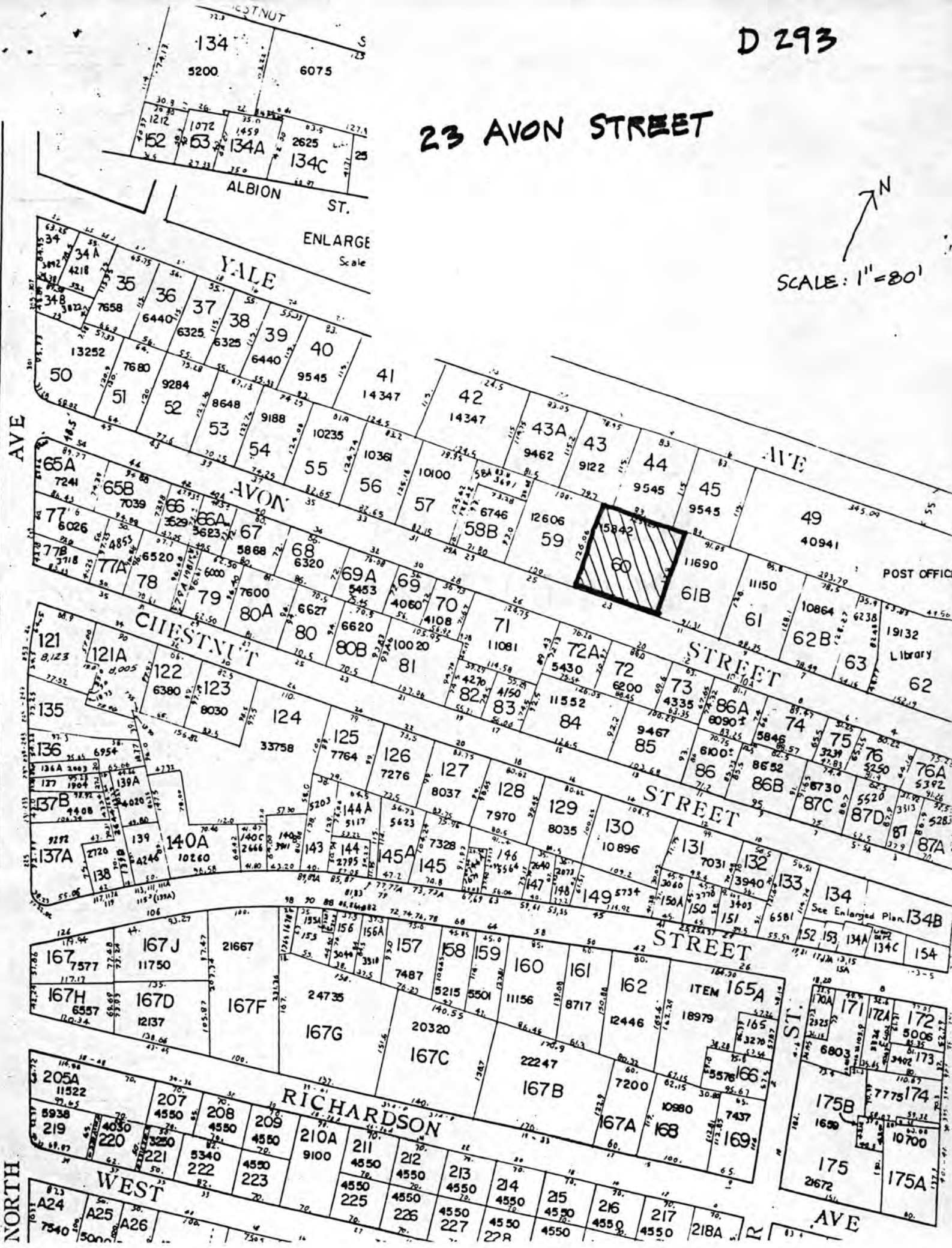
Worcester

Wakfield MRA, Ms

D 293

23 AVON STREET

SCALE: 1" = 80'



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000300