

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
189	N-43A

Town Newton, Mass. M.R.A.
Newton (Newton Corner)

Address 140 Sargent Street

Historic Name Nichols House

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

Use: Present dwelling

Original dwelling

DESCRIPTION

Date 1879

Source Engineering Dept Water Records

Style Stick Style

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition Excellent

Moved no Date less than

Acreage 39,636 sq. ft. one acre

Setting suburban residential on
sloping, expansive grounds.

Recorded by Archit. Pres. Assocs.

Organization Historic Newton Inc.

Date 5/83; rev. by H. White 3/86

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 19.319860.4690300

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON, MASS.

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The J. Howard Nichols residence is one of Newton's finest examples of a large, architect-designed Stick Style house and therefore meets Criterion 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 J. Howard Nichols House demonstrates the Stick Style preference for tall, vertically proportioned forms, steeply-pitched roofs, and sharp, angular gables. Inventiveness is shown in the open wooden bracing of the gables, entrance porch, and bay windows. The hilltop setting, richness of trim and ample grounds suggest the considerable financial means of the original owner. The Nichols house is a square plan house of two and one-half stories with a two-stage rear ell and a steeply-pitched hip roof. A system of applied wood trim is decorative rather than structural. The main entrance is set within a hip-roofed porte-cochere. Several polygonal bays with bracketed cornices enrich the design.

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

The Nichols residence was built by J. Howard Nichols, a merchant in the Chinese ports treaty. Nichols was treasurer of the Dwight Manufacturing Company in 1889. The section of Newton Corner in which Nichols built this house was one of large estates whose owners were wealthy Boston businessmen.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Atlases: 1907 Rev. J.H. Nichols, 1895-Howard Nichols, 1886-J.H. Nichols, 1874-land of Wiley Edmands.

City Directories: 1887- J.H. Nichols, treas. Boston
M.F. Sweetser. King's Handbook of Newton. (1889), p. 89.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational 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 GroupName Newton MRA
State Middlesex County, MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

91. Needham Street Bridge

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

92. Newton Street Railway
CarbarnEntered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

93. Nichols House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

94. Old Shepard Farm

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

95. Page, H.P., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

96. Parsons, Edward, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

97. Peabody--Williams House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

98. Potter Estate

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 12/23/86

Attest

99. Prescott Estate

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

100. Railroad Hotel

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

86001857

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Nichols House (Newton MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. JUL 23 1986

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87

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

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 9-4-86

☐ RETURN

☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

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

Entered in the
National Register

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

- ☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

- ☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

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

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Nichols House

Newton, Mass. MRA

- 140 Sargent St, Newton Corner -
K-6 (8)



City of Newton Assessor's Maps. Sheet 47
 Metric Series. 1979
 Scale: UTM grid line interval = 100 meters (328 feet)

Newton, Mass. M.R.A.
 140 Sargent Street, Newton Corner
 73-1-5