

693

MAY 23 1989

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
B	126 NRN

Town Wakefield

Address 57 Water Street & the Railroad

Historic Name Center Depot

Use: Present Restaurant

Original Railroad Depot

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 1900

Source Visual analysis

Style Queen Anne

Architect NA

Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings None

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

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

Windows filled, east facade altered new entry, east (c.1920)
Condition Fair

Moved NA Date NA

Acreage Less than one acre

Setting Parallel to tracks on north side not oriented to street.

UTM REFERENCE 19/330080/4707430

USGS QUADRANGLE Reading, MA

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Architectural Preservation Associates
Organization Wakefield Historical Commission
Date March 1985

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Center Depot is a well preserved example of its type and is associated with the railroad lives that abetted the development of Wakefield as an industrial center during the third quarter of the 19th century. The building retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and meets Criteria A and 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 one story, clapboard depot building c. 1870-73 is dominated by its slate hip roof, which deeply overhangs the walls, offering shelter to waiting passengers. The roof is supported on deep braces, which are fixed to regularly spaced paneled pilasters, decorated with scalloped trim, probably a replacement of original trim. An octagonal bay window with colored glass panes on the southeast elevation was probably used by the ticket agent, and a baggage platform at the southwest are typical of railroad structures of the period.

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

The coming of the railroad in 1844-45 helped to change South Reading from a thinly settled agricultural community to a fast growing industrial center and commuter suburb. The Center depot was located south of the junction of the Boston and Maine Branch to Salem, (1850), now abandoned, and the Branch to Danvers (1853-4). A depot at this site is not shown until the atlas of 1874, but a structure may have been erected here before that date.

Rail transportation was responsible for industrial diversification and expansion in South Reading. The lines served by this depot were used by the Wakefield Rattan Co., manufacturers of rattan, reed and wicker products, which became the town's largest single employer, and producer of its most valuable product. The company was established in 1856, after the lines were laid. The L.B. Evans shoe manufacturing firm also took advantage of the lines when it located its factory nearby in 1894. The increased work force required by industrial development promoted residential expansion near the lines. Middle class suburban neighborhoods also grew, somewhat further from the lines, to house commuters to Boston. Until the coming of rail transportation, town growth was slow, but between 1840 and 1855 the town doubled the figure of the twenty five previous years, and it

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES continued to boom in the 1860s and 70s.

Maps 1857,

1874, Wakefield Center Depot.

Eaton, William. History of Wakefield. Wakefield, 1944.

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

Cover

Substantive Review

Jr Keeper Beth L. Savage 7/1/88

1. Beacon Street Tomb

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Arlene Byer 7/6/89

Attest _____

2. Beebe Homestead

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Arlene Byer 7/6/89

Attest _____

3. Boardman, E., House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Arlene Byer 7/6/89

Attest _____

4. Boit, Elizabeth, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Arlene Byer 7/6/89

Attest _____

5. Building at 35--37 Richardson Avenue

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Arlene Byer 7/6/86

Attest _____

6. Building at 38--48 Richardson Avenue

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Arlene Byer 7/6/89

Attest _____

~~7. Center Depot~~

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Arlene Byer 7/6/89

Attest _____

8. Church--Lafayette Streets
Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Arlene Byer 7/6/89

Attest _____

9. Common District

Entered in the
National Register

Jr Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/2/90

Attest _____

10. Cowdry, Jonas, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Arlene Byer 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 Center Depot
NAME:

MULTIPLE Wakefield MRA
NAME:

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: 89000693

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 _____



B 126

57 Water St

Center Depot

Wakefield MA, Ma

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000300