

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
	1430

Newton, Mass. MRA
Town Newton (Newton Corner)

Address 41 Vernon Street

Historic Name Rawson Estate

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 ca. 1860

Source Maps, City Directories

Style Italianate

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric asphalt siding

Outbuildings carriage barn

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

Siding-20th century

Condition Good

Moved no Date _____

Acreage 26,676 sq. feet *less than one acre*

Setting urban residential, prominent site above intersection of Park, Vernon, and Tremont Streets.

Recorded by K. Hatch

Organization Newton Historical Comm.

Date 2/77; 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 19.320300.4691220

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON, MASS.

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Rawson residence is a well-preserved example of early Italianate style design and exemplifies the large estates built in Newton Corner during the 1850s and 1860s and therefore meets Criteria 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 Rawson residence was designed in the Italianate style which became fashionable during the middle years of the nineteenth century. The style was favored by the owners of several large estates erected in Newton Corner during the 1850s and 1860s.

The house is a typical Italianate design, with an end gabled orientation, and an adherence to principles of strict symmetry. The center gabled entrance pavilion is associated with conservative, academic examples from this phase of American architecture. The building's decorative detailing has been well-preserved, and includes round-headed gable windows, and a full-width front veranda with ornate, bracketed wood trim. The building's most unusual feature is the rear corner tower, capped with iron cresting. Much of the interior woodwork remains in its original state.

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

The Rawson estate was owned by a prominent Newton Corner family for nearly a century. Daniel A. Rawson, a Boston boot and shoe merchant; evidently built the house. Rawson was representative of a new type of Newton Corner resident, the Boston commuter. Susan C. Rawson assumed ownership of the property at the time of her husband's death in 1885. She died in 1916, after which members of the Rawson family continued to occupy the house until the mid-1940s.

The grounds of the Rawson estate once extended to Park Street, and were probably part of property owned in 1855 by Joel M. Holden, an important local political figure who served on Newton's first Board of Aldermen. Holden's house, since demolished, was located east of the Rawson residence. The house and its gardens were visible from Eldredge Street and for many years was known as a local show place. King's Handbook of Newton, in a discussion of important sites in the village of Newton Corner, noted in 1889: "On Vernon Street, just east of the park, is the fine estate of Mrs. Susan Rawson..." The complex included ornamental stone posts, carved with the initial "R" at the entrance to a formal drive leading to the carriage house on Tremont Street. Both survive, although the carriage house has been considerably altered.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Atlases: 1917, 1907, 1895, 1886, 1874.
O.H. Bailey. View of Newton, Mass. (1878)
City Directories: 1945-1868.
Henry Finch, Newton Corner (research).
Friends of the Jackson Homestead. Newton's Older Houses: Newton Corner & Nonantum (1976), p.60.
M.F. Sweetser. King's Handbook of Newton (1889), p. 72.

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

101. Rawson Estate

Entered in the
National Register for KeeperMelores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

102. Richards, James Lorin, House

Entered in the
National Register for KeeperMelores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

103. Riley, Charles, House

Entered in the
National Register for KeeperMelores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

104. Sacco--Pettee Machine Shops

Entered in the
National Register for KeeperMelores Byers 12/23/86

Attest

105. Salisbury, Jonas, House
62 Walnut ParkEntered in the
National Register for KeeperMelores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

106. Salisbury, Jonas, House
85 Langley Rd.Entered in the
National Register for KeeperMelores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

DOE 107. Silver Lake Cordage Company

Substantive Review Determined Eligible

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

for Keeper

Patricia Anderson 9/4/86

Attest

108. Simpson House

Entered in the
National Register for KeeperMelores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

109. Smith, S. Curtis, House

Entered in the
National Register for KeeperMelores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

110. Smith--Peterson House

Entered in the
National Register for KeeperMelores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

86001869

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Rawson Estate (Newton MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. JUL 23 1986

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87

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

Entered in the National Register
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 9-4-86
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ 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
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ 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: _____



Rawson Estate

Newton, Mass. MRA

- 41 Vernon St., Newton Corner -
77-A-19 (18)



City of Newton Assessor's Maps. Sheet 35
 Metric Series. 1979
 Scale: UTM grid line interval = 100 meters (328 feet)

Newton, Mass. M.R.A.
 41 Vernon Street, Newton Corner
 Rawson Estate
 72-11-6