

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

1492
AUG 21 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

AREA	FORM NO.
	65

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Town Waltham, MA

Address 35-37 Central St.

Historic Name John E. Olcott House

Use: Present private residence (double)

Original same

DESCRIPTION

Date ca.1837

Source deed research

Style Federal

Architect John E. Olcott, bricklayer

Exterior Wall Fabric brick

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) front

entrance porch added (n.d.)

Condition fair-good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage 3,417 sq.ft. 0.078 Acres 61-14-9

Setting situated on corner lot in densely-

settled residential area of mid 19th c.

houses

Recorded by Ed Gordon

Organization Waltham Historical Comm.

Date July, 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 sheet

UTM REFERENCE 19/316 320 / 4693 320

USGS QUADRANGLE LEXINGTON

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The John Olcott House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and associations. It is significant as a rare local example of brick Federal period construction associated with a known bricklayer owner. Its vernacular rear-wall chimney form may be contrasted with the more elaborate forms of the Elijah Fiske House (#155) and Gore Place (NHL). The Olcott House 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.

#35/37 Central St. is architecturally significant as a rare Waltham example of a masonry Federal style house. Prior to the early 1900's, wood was by far the material of popular choice in Waltham. #35/37 Central St. is a boxy, 2-story double house with a 5 bay x 2 bay main block. It is enclosed by a low hip roof. Projecting from the center of its 5-bay main facade is an enclosed porch--inside the porch, a replacement front door is visible. There is no evidence to suggest that the entrance ever had an elliptical arch--a feature that appears on the similar but more substantial Luke Fiske House on Lincoln St., Waltham. In general this house's planar masonry surfaces are pieced by slightly recessed windows; only the windows at the southeast corner retain 6/6 wood sash. Most of the windows contain 1/1 replacement sash. This building's masonry walls are composed of rows of stretcher bricks. Although the entry and most of the windows have been altered, the Olcott House remains as a rare survivor of a brick Federal period house whose vernacular rear-wall chimney form may be contrasted with the high style form of Gore Place (NHL).

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

35/37 Central St. dates from the earliest phase of the development of the neighborhood to the east of this Waltham Common. Central St. was originally called Middle St. and was set out c.1836/1837. #35/37 Central St. was built c.1837 and probably represents the craftsmanship of John E. Olcott, "bricklayer," of Watertown. He purchased this lot for \$600.00 from Thomas F. Miller, trader, for \$600.00. The Miller/Olcott deed (362:537) mentions "the line dividing the entry in the Center to the first named bound with a privilege of using the whole of said entry in common with the occupant in the southend of the house with a priveledge in the Cellar, Garret and back chamber to occupy the same in common and the right of passage to said apartment, also the exclusive right of passage to said apartment also the exclusive right of occupying the whole of a small chamber at the west end of the entry of said house." In addition, Thomas F. Miller reserved the exclusive right of occupying the small room on the east side of this house.

John E. Olcott lived in this house until as late as 1887. On January 18, 1888, Andrew J. Lathrop of Waltham, administrator of the estate of John E. Olcott sold this house to an Ellen T. Hagan for \$2100.00 (see Middlesex deeds 1834:493). Ellen T. Hagan owned this property until at least 1911.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Waltham Maps/Atlases--1836, 1854, 1874, 1886, 1900, 1911
Waltham Directories--late 19th c.
Middlesex Deeds--362:537; 1834:493

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 21 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Waltham MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

61. Mount Feaks Cemetery *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper Melrose Byrum 9/28/89
Attest _____

5-12 62. Mt. Prospect School for Boys *Substantive Review* *for* Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90
Attest _____

63. Murray, Robert, House *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper Melrose Byrum 9/28/89
Attest _____

5-12 64. Newton Street Bridge *Substantive Review* *for* Keeper Beth L. Savage 9/28/89
Attest _____

65. North Lexington Street Historic District *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper Melrose Byrum 9/28/89
Attest _____

66. O'Hara Waltham Dial Company *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper Melrose Byrum 9/28/89
Attest _____

67. Olcott, John E., House *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper Melrose Byrum 9/28/89
Attest _____

68. Oxford, The *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper Melrose Byrum 9/28/89
Attest _____

69. Peck, John M., House *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper Melrose Byrum 9/28/89
Attest _____

5-12 70. Piety Corner Historic District *Substantive Review* *for* Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90
Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Olcott, John E., House

MULTIPLE NAME: Waltham MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 8/21/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/05/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/21/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/05/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001492

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 9/28/89 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 _____



35-37 Central st.

MHC # 5

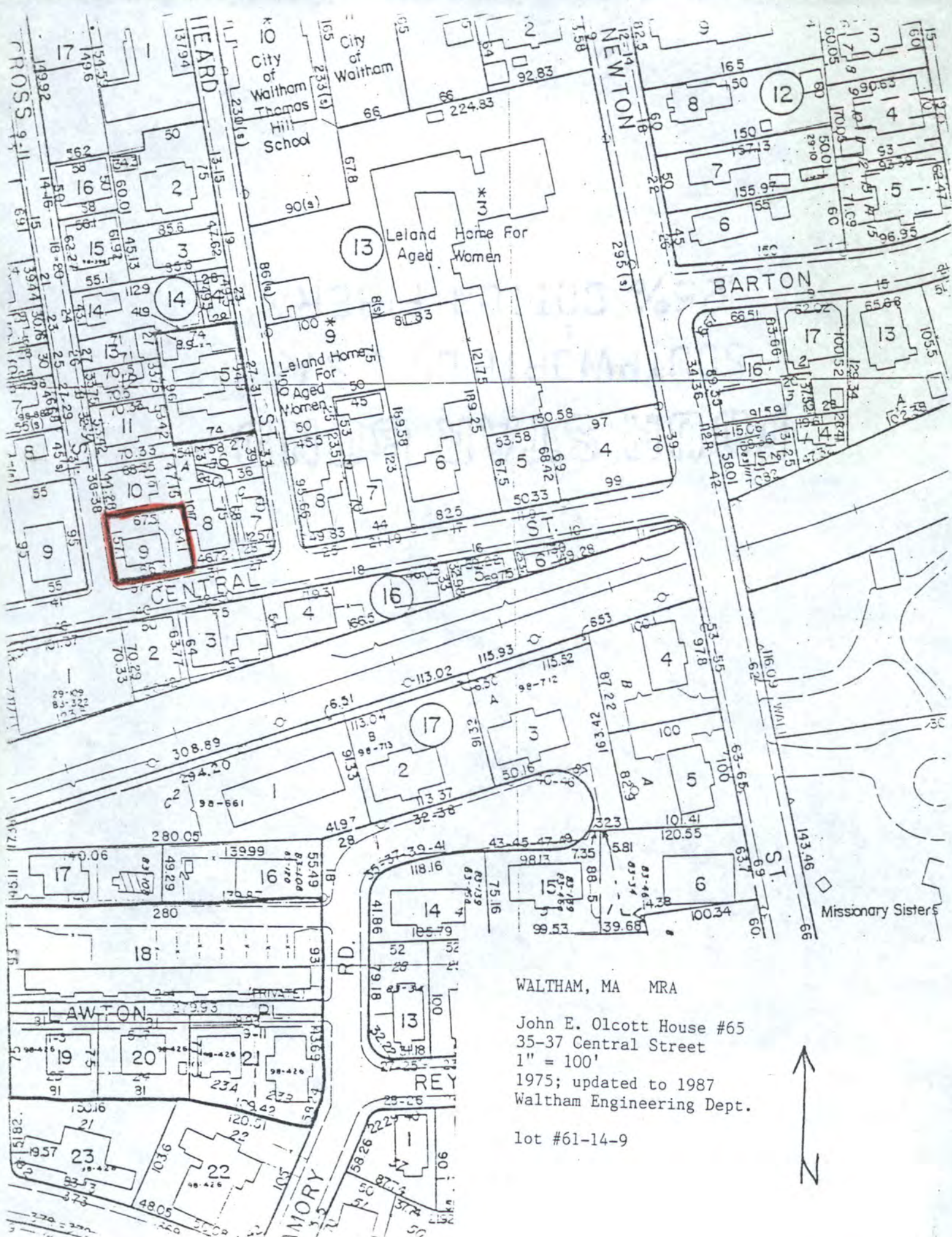
Waltham, MA MRA

Olcott, John E., House



35-37 Central St
Waltham MA MA
MA #65

Olcott, John, E., House

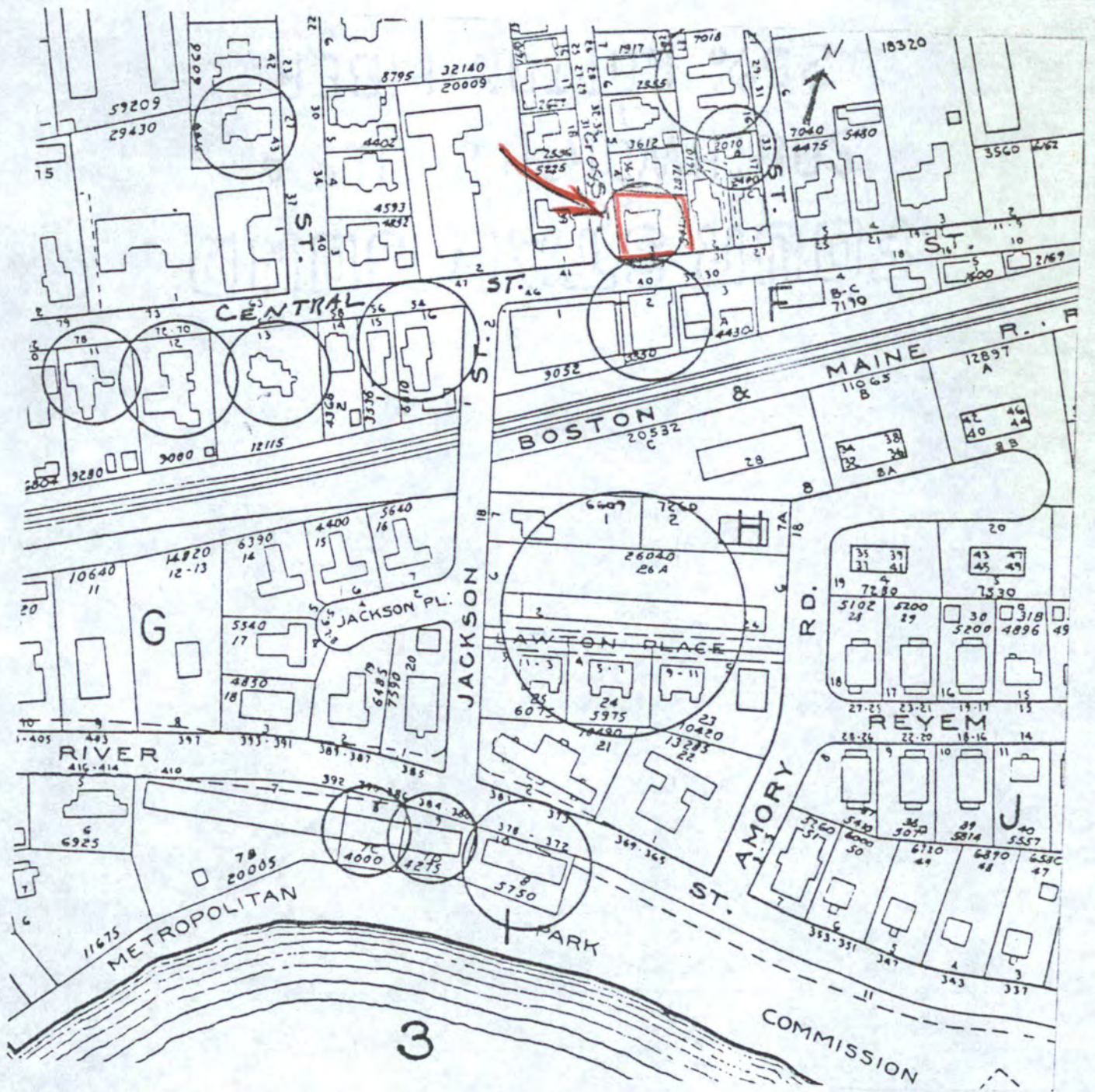


WALTHAM, MA MRA

John E. Olcott House #65
 35-37 Central Street
 1" = 100'
 1975; updated to 1987
 Waltham Engineering Dept.

lot #61-14-9





3

1970 Atlas, City of Waltham
 Compiled by the Waltham
 Engineering Division
 Scale: 1 inch = 140 feet

Waltham, Massachusetts MRA
 35-37 Central Street
 John Olcott House
 13-C-3 MHC # 65

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301