

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Photo (3"x 3" 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

AUG 21 1989

1580

AREA

FORM NO.

NATIONAL REGISTER

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Town Waltham, Massachusetts

Address 85 Crescent Street

Historic Name Robert Murray House

Use Present private residence

Original private residence

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1859

Source deed research

Style Italianate

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates)
18th century front door and
enframements added during the 1920's

Condition excellent

Moved no - Date- n/a

Acreage 16,200 sq. ft. 0.37 A. 69-1-1

Setting Overlooking the Charles
River, part of Crescent Street's

exceptional collection of mid-late
19th century houses. (too much infill and
alteration to be a historic district)

Recorded by Edward W. Gordon

Organization Waltham Hist. Comm.

Date June, 1986

revised C. Jenkins 2/88

REFERENCE 19/315490/4693120

SS QUADRANGLE Newton Quadrangle

SCALE 1:25000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

85 Crescent Street is significant as one of the earliest of the substantial Victorian houses lining the Charles River side of Crescent Street - these houses date from the late 1850's to the 1890's. Stylistically, this house is a good example of a center-pavilion Italianate house. Built ca. 1859, this house was, for many years, owned by Robert Murray, a landscape gardener. The Robert Murray House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. As an early representative of the development of the South Side by the Waltham Watch Company and a good example of the Italianate style, it 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.

85 Crescent Street is a handsome example of a center-hall/center -pavilion Italianate house . It is a very well-preserved example of this Italianate house type in Waltham. Its 3-bay x 1-bay main block retains its clapboards, corner-boards, and fascia boards. Projecting from the main facade is a center pavilion which features an 18th century door and enframements which were formerly a part of a south shore Massachusetts home. This entrance exhibits a multi-panel front door, fluted Doric pilasters, and dentillated pediment. The center pavilion's gable shelters a lunette window. In general, windows are fully-enframed and contain 6/6 wood sash. Tall windows appear on the the ground floor, on either side of the front door. To the rear of this house is a 2-story ell. The main block is enclosed by a gable roof with paired brackets at the cornices.

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

This house ranks among the earliest substantial examples of Victorian houses to be built along the Charles River side of Crescent Street. By 1890, Crescent Street was almost entirely built-up with Italianate, Mansard and Queen Anne houses of considerable size, high-quality craftsmanship, and design.

Born on January 17th, 1837, Robert Murray was a landscape gardener by trade. He purchased this house's lot from the American Waltham Watch Company on June 15h, 1859 for \$632.50 (see Middlesex Deeds 817 : 453). This house's land appears as lots 480 - 484 on the 1854 plan of the South Side (Plan Book 11, plan 49). The Watch Company/Murray deed contained the same restrictions that appear in 107 Adam Street's deed (see Form # 40). Robert Murray died in 1887. By 1890, a minister named Robert Murray is listed as the occupant of this house. Evidently this was Robert Murray the landscape gardener's son. Robert had attended college and was ordained as a minister. He spent much of his life in Pennsylvania and Rhode Island, where he held a rectorship for 30 years. Upon his retirement in 1894, he returned to 85 Crescent Street. He died in 1918. By the 1920's, George and Jenny Cooley owned this house. He was a clerk in the Clifford S. Cobb Department store on Moody Street. It was during the Cooley ownership that the 18th century Georgian front door and enframements were installed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Interview with current owner - Susan Brown
Maps/Atlases - 1854, 1874, 1886, 1898, 1900, 1915, 1923
Waltham Directories - 1870's, 1890's
Middlesex Deeds - 817:453

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 GroupName Waltham MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

61. Mount Feaks Cemetery

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melous Byan 9/28/89

Attest _____

5016 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 Registerfor Keeper Melous Byan 9/28/89

Attest _____

5012 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 Registerfor Keeper Melous Byan 9/28/89

Attest _____

66. O'Hara Waltham Dial Company

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melous Byan 9/28/89

Attest _____

67. Olcott, John E., House

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melous Byan 9/28/89

Attest _____

68. Oxford, The

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melous Byan 9/28/89

Attest _____

69. Peck, John M., House

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melous Byan 9/28/89

Attest _____

5012 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 Murray, Robert, House
NAME:

MULTIPLE Waltham MRA
NAME:

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: 89001580

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 _____



Murray Robert, House
Waltham MA, MA

© STEVEN GYURINA

Murray HSC

MHC 27

85 Crescent-st



Murray, Robert, Hsc

Waltham MRA, Ma

Murray Hsc

MHC 27
8-2-1981 + st

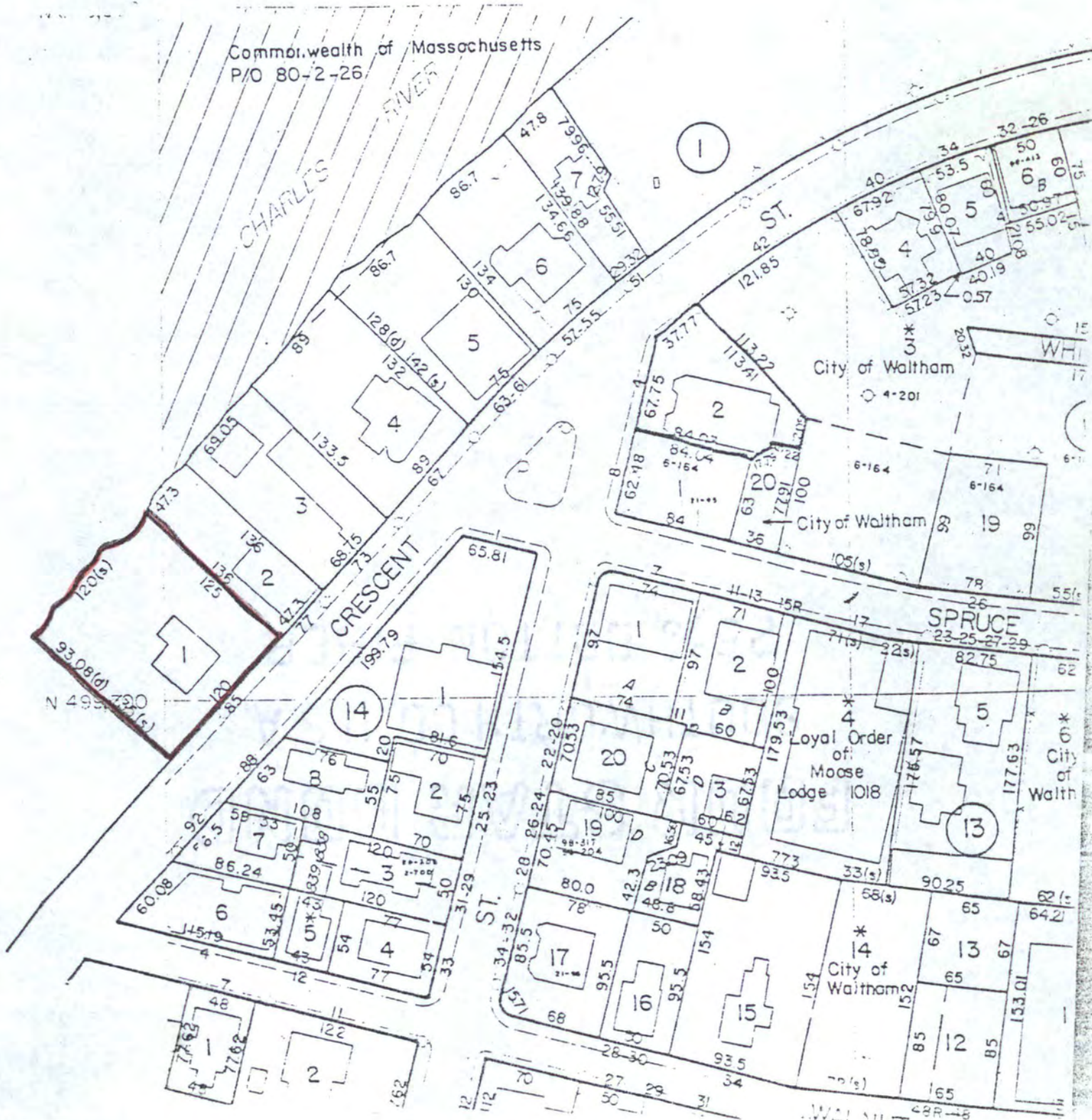
WALTHAM, MA MRA

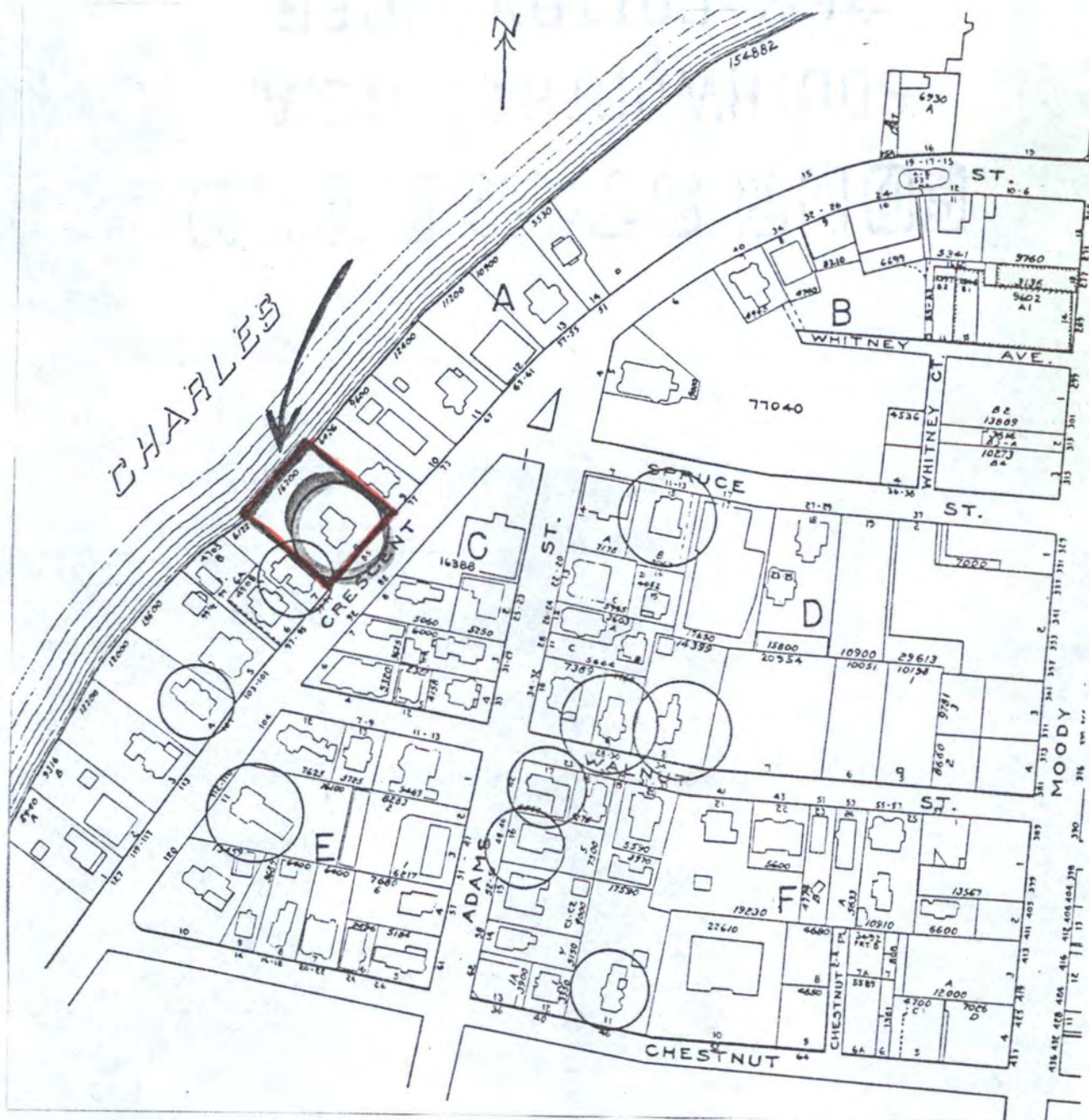
Robert Murray House #27
85 Crescent Street
1" = 100'
1975; updated to 1987
Waltham Engineering Dept.

lot #69-1-1



E 670,000





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

Waltham, Massachusetts MRA
 85 Crescent House
 Robert Murray House
 4-A-8
 MHC #27

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301