

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

UTM REFERENCE 19/315530/4697890
USGS QUADRANGLE LEXINGTON
SCALE 1:25,000

AUG 21 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

AREA

FORM NO.

	163
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WALTHAM, MA MRA
Waltham

Town

Address 56 Whittier StreetHistoric Name Benjamin Wellington

House

Use Present residentialOriginal residential

DESCRIPTION

Date c. 1810Source Elizabeth Castner, Archivist,
Waltham Public LibraryStyle FederalArchitect - unknownExterior Wall Fabric shingle, brickOutbuildings noneMajor Alterations (with dates) at
least one later ell - late 19th centuryCondition goodMoved - no Date -n/aAcreage 0.851 Acres 37,100 sq. ft. 7-15-3Setting On hillock surrounded by
modern residential development.Recorded by Edward W. GordonOrganization Waltham Historical CommDate June, 1986

revised C. Jenkins 2/88

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

56 Whittier Avenue represents the nucleus of an early 19th c. Trapelo Road farm. It is one of the city's very few "brickender" Federal houses. It has significant historical associations with the Wellingtons, a family that figured prominently in the annals of 18th and 19th c. Waltham history. The Benjamin Wellington House possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and strong associations with Waltham's agricultural history. It meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

56 Whittier Avenue is part of Waltham's small, but choice, collection of "brickender" Federal houses. This is a relatively substantial house with a commodious 5-bay x 3-bay main block. This is the only "brickender" in Waltham with twin-linked chimneys at each end. Encircling the south and east sides of the house is a handsome, fluted Tuscan-columned porch with slatwork railings. In general, windows are simply and fully enframed, with 2/1 wood replacement sash. Projecting from the northeast corner is a 2-story ell with gable roof - evidently this is a late 19th century addition. Projecting from the northwest corner of the house is a modern, 2-story addition.

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

The Benjamin Wellington Farm is the most westerly of the old estates of Trapelo. Prior to 1760, its land belonged to Waltham's Fiske family. According to Edmund L. Sanderson, William Fiske Jr. "began buying land in 1729 when he was almost 25 years old, and when he married Mary Sanderson in November 1733, he owned at least 38 acres bordering on the Lexington line and the meadows north and northwest of the Great Pond. His house, probably built about that time, was on the north side of Trapelo Rd." William Fiske Jr. died in 1760. His 100 acre estate passed to his daughter who had married Nathaniel Bridges. In 1762, the Bridges sold this land to Deacon Isaac Stern. From him the title passed to his grandson Phineas and to his great granddaughter Mary, wife of Benjamin Wellington. This farm remained in the Wellington family until the early 20th century - by that time Robert McAdoo operated a dairy farm here.

After World War II, the land was subdivided for suburban tract development.

Note: Wellingtons settled along Trapelo Road as early as the late 17th century. Joseph Wellington built a house on the south side of Trapelo Road near the northeast corner of the land now owned by the Walter E. Fernald State School. It was built on 4 acres that he bought there in 1670.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps: 1830, 1854

Atlases: 1875, 1886, 1911, 1915, 1923

Waltham Directories 1915, 1930, 1939

Sanderson, Edmund L. Waltham: 1630-1884, Waltham Historical Society Archives, 1936

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

91. Waltham Gas and Electric Company
Generating Plant Entered in the
National Register for Keeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
92. Waltham High School Entered in the
National Register for Keeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
93. Waltham Water Works Shop for Keeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
94. Warren, Nathan, House Substantive Review for Keeper Beth A. Savage 3/9/90
Attest _____
95. Wellington, Benjamin, House Entered in the
National Register for Keeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
96. Wellington, William, House Entered in the
National Register for Keeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
97. Wellington--Castner House for Keeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
98. Wetherbee House Entered in the
National Register for Keeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
99. White, Warren, House Entered in the
National Register for Keeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
100. Whitney--Farrington--Cook House for Keeper Melrose Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Wellington, Benjamin, 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: 89001523

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

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



Waltham MA MRA
56 Whittier St.

#163

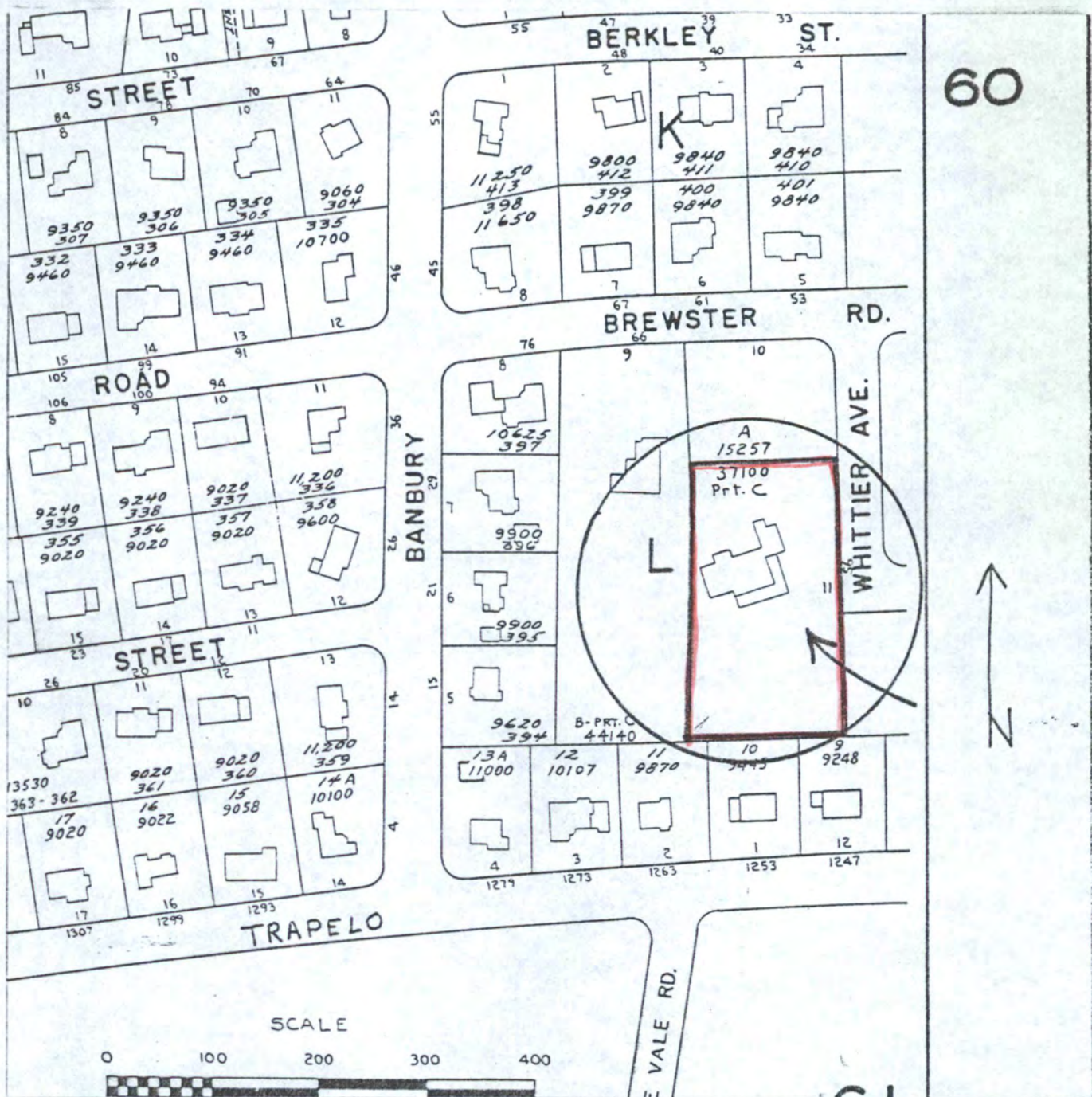
Wellington, Benjamin, House



Waltham MA MA
56 Whittier St.
#163

Wellington, Benjamin, Hase

© STEVEN GYURINA



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

Waltham, Massachusetts MRA
 56 Whittier Avenue
 Benjamin Wellington House
 61-L-11 MHC 163



WALTHAM, MA MRA

Benjamin Wellington House #163
 56 Whittier Street
 1" = 100'
 1975; updated to 1987
 Waltham Engineering Dept.

lot #7-15-3



SCALE 1:1200 (1 INCH = 100 FEET)

0 100 200 300 400 FEET

LEGEND:

ROADS
 PAVED
 UNPAVED
 TRACKS OF
 RAILROADS
 BRIDGES
 ROAD
 RAILROAD

SETT'S STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301