

FORM B - BUILDING

AUG 21 1989

1528

NATIONAL
REGISTER

AREA

FORM NO.

92

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Waltham, MA

Address 132 Church StreetHistoric Name Rev. Thomas Hill HouseUse: Present ResidentialOriginal Residential

DESCRIPTION

Date 1845Source Church history, biographiesStyle Greek Revival/ItalianateArchitect unknownExterior Wall Fabric SidingOutbuildings garage-NCAdditions or Alterations (with dates) Sunporch(n.d.), rear ell (n.d.)Condition ExcellentEstimated no Date n/aAge 1.3A 57,600 sq.ft. 51-8-2Setting Set far back on an extensivelawn in residential section with19th and 20th c. housesRecorded by Nancy S. SeasholesOrganization Waltham Historical Comm.Date August 1986

revised C. Jenkins 2/88



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).

UTM REFERENCE 19/316 200 14694700USGS QUADRANGLE LEXINGTONSCALE 1:25,000

The Thomas Hill house is a good example of an early Italianate house with some Greek Revival elements. Its major importance, however, is that it was built for and was the residence of one of Waltham's most famous nineteenth century citizens, Rev. Thomas Hill. The house was owned by Hill throughout his active career, from his graduation from Harvard Divinity School in 1845 to his death in 1891, and is the Waltham property most closely connected with his life. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and associations, and meets criteria B 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.

Set at the back of a large expanse of lawn in a residential area of nineteenth and twentieth century houses and garden apartments, this house is a good example of an early Italianate with some Greek Revival elements. Its Italianate characteristics include the three-by-two bay profile with a center entrance, two narrow ridge chimneys, wide overhanging eaves with brackets, roundhead windows in the gables, cornerboards, and bracketed canopied window heads on the first floor. Greek Revival elements are evident in the pedimented attic, full entablature and the entrance with sidelights. There is a substantial ell on the north, also with an entablature and brackets. The glazed east sunporch on fieldstone foundation appears to date to the early 20th century. The front verandah with its Italianate bracketed cornice appears to have been rebuilt at the same time as it displays Tuscan columns and a prominent fieldstone base.

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 was built in 1845 by Thomas Hill, the new minister of the First Parish Church. Hill was born in 1818 in New Brunswick, NJ, and decided at an early age to be a minister. He entered Harvard in 1839 and graduated second in his class in 1843, having done exceptionally well in mathematics and been offered the directorship of the National Observatory in Washington, which he declined. In 1845, he graduated from Harvard Divinity School, preached five Sundays in Waltham in July and August, and then was offered the ministry of the First Parish Church. He was married in November 1845, and by the beginning of December was living in Waltham, presumably in this house.

According to Hill's own account, his most significant contribution while in Waltham was to the public schools; he served on the School Committee from 1845 to 1859 and was chairman for much of that time. During his tenure the per-pupil expenditure increased and his ideas on teaching, similar to those of Horace Mann, were adopted to the extent that in 1860 the Waltham schools were considered the best in the state.

CONT

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Stearns, George A.

1914 The First Parish in Waltham. Boston: Privately printed.

Sanderson, Edmund L. and Elizabeth D. Castner

n.d. History of the First Parish in Waltham. Typescript. Waltham Public Library.

Castner, Betty and Listy Smith

n.d. First Parish Newsletter. Typescript. Waltham Public Library.

Gitelman, Howard M.

1974 Working Men of Waltham: Mobility in American Urban Industrial Development, 1850-89. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins.

Waltham News Tribune, May 4, 1951

Maps and atlases - 1854, 1875, 1886, 1900, 1911, 1915, 1923

Directories - 1911, 1923

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Community:

Waltham, MA

Form No:

92

Property Name:

Rev. Thomas Hill House

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

Hill left Waltham in 1859 to succeed Horace Mann as president of Antioch College; the college was in serious financial difficulties and most of his time was spent raising money to cover operating expenses. In 1862 Hill was elected president of Harvard College and remained in that post until he resigned in 1868. He returned to Waltham in 1869 and lived there until 1873, when he became the minister of the Unitarian Church in Portland, ME. He received a D.D. from Harvard in 1860 and an L.L.D. from Yale in 1863.

In addition to his contributions to education and theology, Hill continued his interest in science. He invented a calculator, called an arithmometer, that was used by the Smithsonian Institute to calculate the solar eclipse of 1858. He published poetry as well as scientific and theological works and was a founder of the Waltham Sentinel in 1856. Hill died in Waltham in 1891 while still minister in Portland.

It is difficult to determine who lived in this house when Hill was not in residence, though apparently Arthur Lyman lived here from 1884 to 1886. After Hill's death the house was owned by his son and a son-in-law and in the early twentieth century was acquired by James S. Robinson, a real estate and insurance agent. Frederic I. Robinson, also in insurance, still owns and resides at the house.



Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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 MRAState Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

41. Hall, Henry C., House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melrose Byrum 9/28/89

Attest _____

42. Hammond, Ephraim, House

Substantive Review

Keeper Beth A. Savage 9/16/89

Attest _____

43. Hammond, Jonathan, House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melrose Byrum 9/28/89

Attest _____

44. Hardy, Nahum, House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melrose Byrum 9/28/89

Attest _____

45. Harrington Block

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melrose Byrum 9/28/89

Attest _____

46. Harrington, Samuel, House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melrose Byrum 9/28/89

Attest _____

47. Hill, Rev. Thomas, House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melrose Byrum 9/28/89

Attest _____

48. Hobbs Brook Basin Gate House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melrose Byrum 9/28/89

Attest _____

49. Holbrook, Richard, Houses

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melrose Byrum 9/28/89

Attest _____

50. Johnson, Edwin C., House

Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Melrose Byrum 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 Hill, Rev. Thomas, 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: 89001528

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 _____



Hill H² Church St
130 Church St.
Waltham MA 019
#92

Hill, Rev. Thomas, House



130 CHURCH ST

WALTHAM, MA, MRA

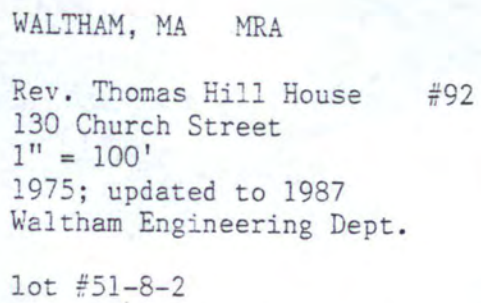
#99

H.H. Rev. Thomas, House



Hill Hse
130 Church St
Waltham MA MA
#92

Hill, Rev. Thomas, Hse



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301