

JAN 02 1990

AREA

Newton, MA-MRA
FORM NO.MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

NC-040

Town Newton (Newton Centre)Address 1294 Centre StreetHistoric Name Newton Centre Branch LibraryUse: Present libraryOriginal same

DESCRIPTION

Date 1927Source Building Dept. & Water recordsStyle Tudor RevivalArchitect Ritchie, Parsons & TaylorExterior Wall Fabric brickOutbuildings noneMajor Alterations (with dates) noneCondition goodMoved no Date n/aAcreage 16,160 sq.ft. C.37ASetting west end of village commercialcenter; grouped with several otherinstitutional buildingsRecorded by Candace Jenkins/Susan AbeleOrganization Newton Historical Comm.Date 3/1987; rev. 3/1988

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 map

UTM REFERENCE 19/319130/4682460USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTONSCALE 1:25000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Newton Centre Library possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as one of five branch libraries built in the city by citizen subscription between 1926-1939 (see WN-J,1925; A-03,1927; W-0101,1929; NV-G,1938). As such it reflects Newton's tremendous growth during that period and the continuing strength of its village system. It is also a good institutional example of the Tudor Revival style by the prolific local and regional architect, James Ritchie. It meets criteria A & C of the NRHP.

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

The Newton Centre Branch Library was designed by the firm of Ritchie, Parsons & Taylor in 1927. It is a 1 1/2 story, L-plan brick structure enclosed by a slate gable roof contained by raised end walls. The entry, with its Classical Revival style segmental arched stone surround, is located at the L and a large bank of windows with transom is located on the end wall facing the street. A triple window with arched heads is located on the wall east of the entry and a cross gable breaks up the wall to the west.

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

The Newton Centre Branch Library was one of five branch libraries to be built by citizen subscription between 1926 and 1939. Fundraising from the Newton Centre and Chestnut Hill community was begun in 1926. A permit was granted for construction in 1927 and the building was opened January 15, 1928. The library was designed by the firm of Ritchie, Parsons and Taylor. James Ritchie, a Newton Centre resident lived at 34 Hancock Avenue and later 10 The Ledges. He was the architect for a number of buildings in the city, including the Police Station and Court House, as well as several public schools. Private commissions included the Union Church in Waban, and the Charles River and Woodland Golf Clubs.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Building Records 1294 Centre Street
Newton Graphic 3/12/26, 1/15/28

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Newton MRA
State Middlesex County, MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

151. Luke, Arthur F., House ^{Entered in the}
National Register

Keeper *Helene Byers 2/16/90*

Attest _____

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION
152. Newton Catholic High School
Substantive Review
TO: OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANSHID.

Keeper *Betty L. Savage 02-16-90*

Attest _____

153. Newton Centre Branch Library
Substantive Review

Keeper *Betty L. Savage 02-16-90*

Attest _____

154. Newton City Hall and War Memorial
Substantive Review

Keeper *Betty L. Savage 02-16-90*

Attest _____

155. Noves, Charles W., House
Entered in the National Register

Keeper *Helene Byers 2/16/90*

Attest _____

156. Pierce, F. Lincoln, Houses
Entered in the National Register

Keeper *Helene Byers 2/16/90*

Attest _____

157. Plummer Memorial Library
Entered in the National Register

Keeper *Helene Byers 2/16/90*

Attest _____

158. Riverside Concrete Company--Lamont's Market
Entered in the National Register

Keeper *Helene Byers 2/16/90*

Attest _____

159. Sawyer, C. A., House (Second)
Entered in the National Register

Keeper *Helene Byers 2/16/90*

Attest _____

160. Schraft, George F., House
Substantive Review

Keeper _____

Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Newton Centre Branch Library

MULTIPLE NAME: Newton MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 1/02/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/16/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/01/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/16/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000024

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2/16/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

One of 5 branch libraries built by subscription between 1926 and 1939. Reflective of need for additional civic/educational facilities to meet the needs of the rapidly expanding population. Architecturally reflective of academic eclecticism of the period; rendered in the Tudor Revival mode by prolific local architect James Ritchie.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept AOC
REVIEWER Davise
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 02-16-90

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 _____



Newton Centre Branch Library
1294 Centre St.
Newton, MA

Newton, MA-MRA

C. Jenkins

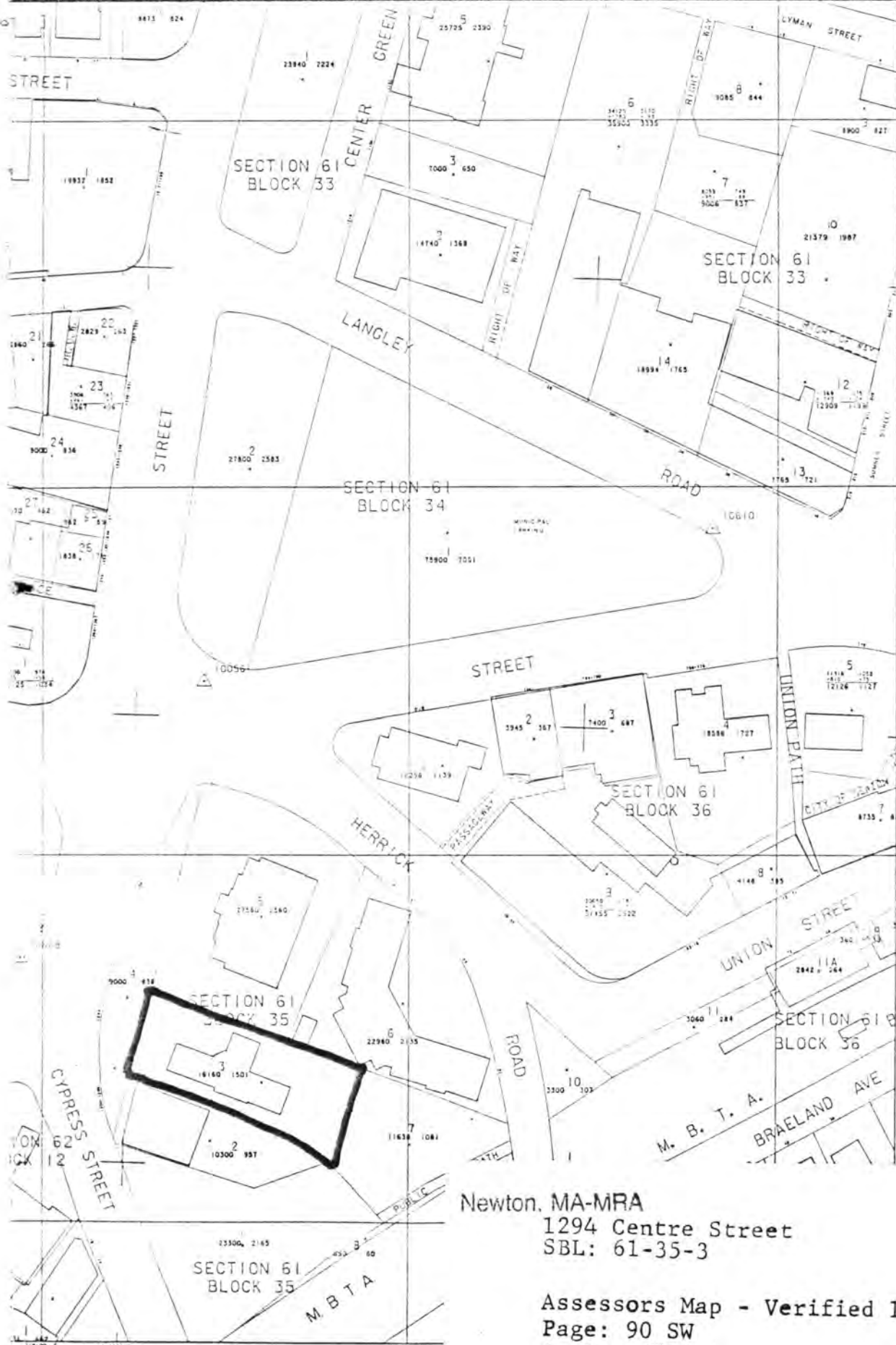
1/87

req. @ Jackson Homestead

meiv - SSE

NC - 040

87/5-16



Newton, MA-MRA

1294 Centre Street

SBL: 61-35-3

Assessors Map - Verified 1985

Page: 90 SW

Scale: 1"=40' Reduced 50%