

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

AUG 21 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

1547

AREA	FORM NO.
	106

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Town Waltham, MA

Address 741 Main St.

Historic Name Francis Buttrick

Library (Waltham Public Library)

Use: Present Library

Original "

DESCRIPTION

Date 1915

Source Elizabeth Castner, Five Part

W.P.L. History

Style Georgian Revival

Architect Loring and Leland

Exterior Wall Fabric brick, sandstone thin

Outbuildings NONE

Major Alterations (with dates) rear addition

added in 1933

Condition good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreeage 67,200 sq.ft. 1.54A. 10-13-B

Setting Faces well-maintained lawn, across

from the Romanesque/Georgian Revival First

Congregational Church.

Recorded by Rupert Davis/Ed Gordon

Organization Waltham Historical Comm.

Date July, 1986

revised by C. Jenkins 3/88

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

UTM REFERENCE 19/315590/4693780

USGS QUADRANGLE LEXINGTON

SCALE 1:25,000

### **NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

The Waltham Public Library has played a significant role in the educational/cultural/social life of the community since 1865. The present library building (1915) is an elegant example of the Georgian Revival style. It represents the work of Boston architects Loring and Leland. It was built with funding from the estate of wealthy real estate speculator/philanthropist Francis Buttrick. This building possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. 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.**

Designed by the firm of Loring & Leland (responsible also for the Beverly Farms Library and the Carter Memorial Hospital in Lancaster, Ma. among other buildings) in the neo-Georgian style, the present library dates to 1915. Constructed of brick (laid in English bond) and limestone, the principal block displays a semicircular portico, whose capitals are a composite of acanthus and papyrus leaves. Located behind the portico's columns, the main entry is surmounted by a broken pediment and flaming urn. Other features include round headed windows with "Gothick" revival tracery, palladian windows at either end and a continuous roof balustrade. The interior is restrained with moldings and plasterwork in the same style. The left wing contains Children's room and the right the Fiction Room. Behind is the Sear's Memorial Gallery, an addition of 1933 by Charles G. Loring in the same manner. The library is the most outstanding public building of its style in Waltham.

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

Established in 1865 as a free public library, the Waltham Public Library owed its inception to the offer of the Rumford Institute for Mutual Instruction to donate its library of 3,700 volumes to the Town with the stipulation that the Town should assume its support. The Institute (organized in 1826) had itself received in 1830, the Manufacturer's Library, established in 1820 by a group connected with the Boston Manufacturing Company to provide a library of "useful and entertaining knowledge" for its workers. The library received a further gift of the Waltham Social Library, comprising 800 volumes, voted to the Town by the Unitarian Society. In 1874 an agricultural collection was given by the Waltham Farmer's Club. The library was first housed in Bank Hall over the Waltham National Bank, at the corner of Main and Lexington Streets. In 1880 it moved to the Chester A. Welch Building at the corner of Moody and Charles Streets.

The current building owes its existence to a bequest made in 1894 by Francis Buttrick. Born in Pepperell, Massachusetts in 1814, Buttrick had come to Waltham in 1838 as a carpenter and journeyman. In the later decades of the nineteenth century he became a respected citizen and the largest real estate owner in the city. Twenty years elapsed before a suitable site for the construction of the new library was secured on Main Street from the Buttrick estate and construction began, the original bequest having grown to \$123,700.

The new site on Main Street, had been partly occupied by the old Central House. Originally built as a farmhouse, known as the Cutting Clark Farm, the building had become a tavern at the close of the eighteenth century. Well known as a venue for social gatherings, the tavern sported the addition of a large two-story piazza between the columns of its gable

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

(cont)

- Architecture Record: Jan-June, 1916, Vol. vxxxix.
- Castner, Elizabeth: Five Part History of the Waltham Public Library. The News Tribune, 1976 W.P.L.
- Hurd, D.H.: History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts.
- Boston Traveler, May 26th, 1914.

Historical Significance

741 Main Street (cont'd)

end portico. The old Central House was demolished in 1914 to make way for the present structure which was dedicated December 11, 1915. In 1933 an addition, the Sears Memorial Gallery, was constructed to house the Charles H. Woodbury paintings, and to provide space for gatherings. In the twentieth century the library has continued to expand, opening several branches between the two World Wars. Orlando Davis, Librarian and Nathan Warren, Trustee, were among founder members of the Waltham Public Library. By the end of the nineteen sixties the library collections contained more than 165,000 volumes.

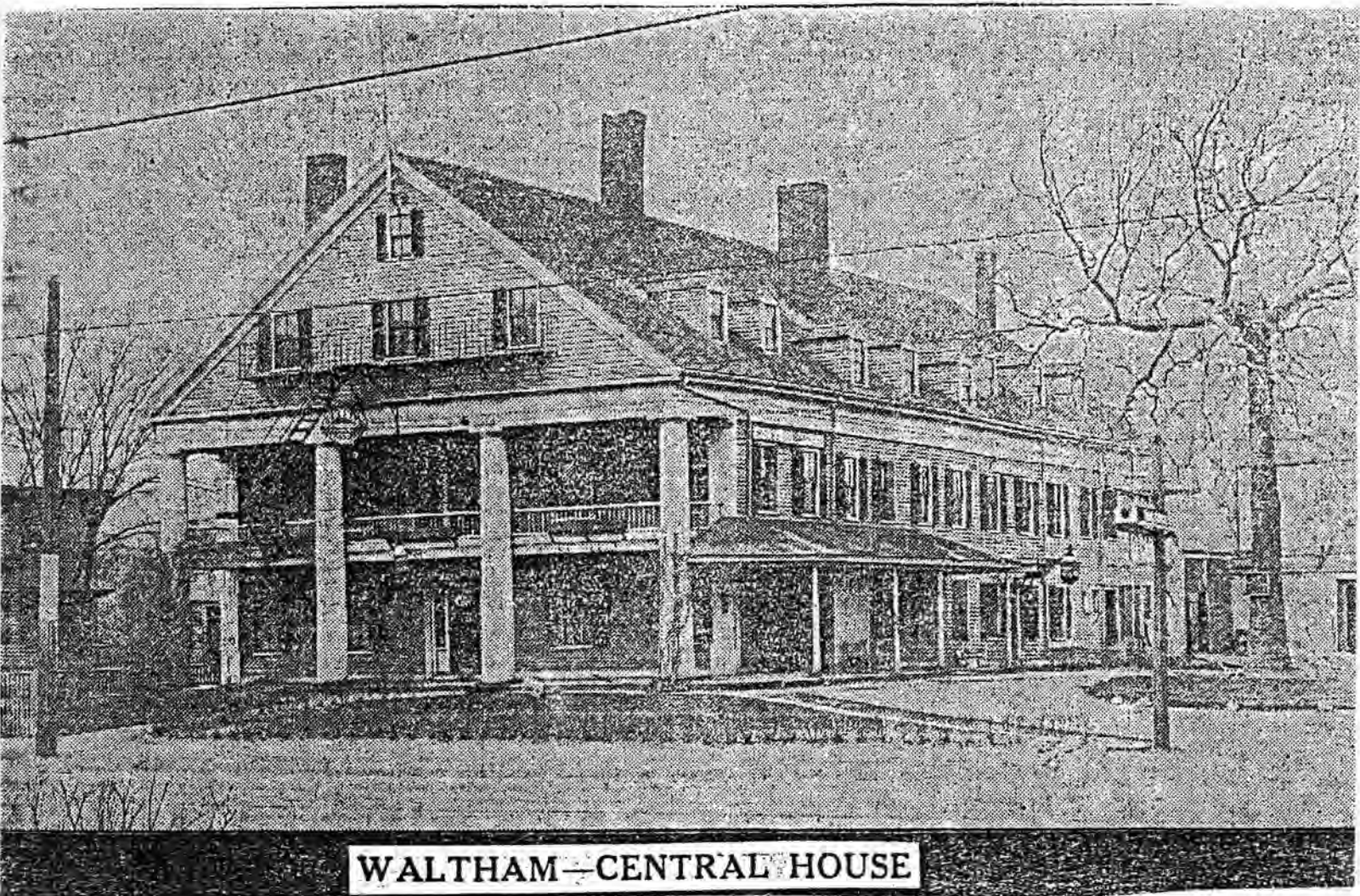
INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

*Waltham MA 1757*

Community: <i>Waltham, Ma.</i>	Form No: <i>106</i>
Property Name: <i>Waltham Public Library</i>	

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



**WALTHAM—CENTRAL HOUSE**

*predecessor bldg on Library site*

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

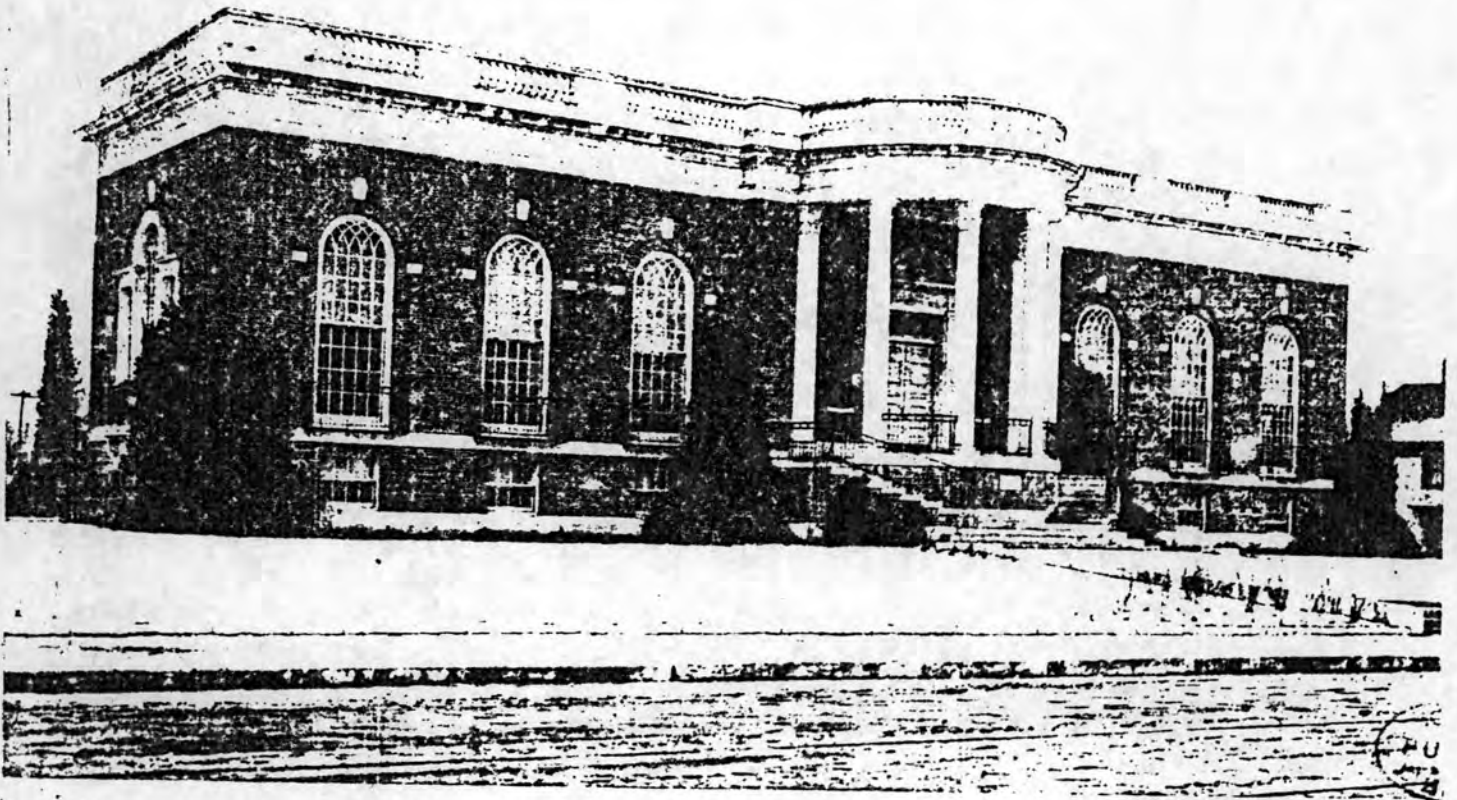
INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Waltham MA MRA

Community: Waltham, MA.	Form No: 106
Property Name: Waltham Public Library 741 Main	

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



WALTHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY, WALTHAM, MASS. LORING & LELAND, ARCHITECTS.

02.1916

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: WALTHAM, MA.	Form No: 106
Property Name: WALTHAM Public Library-741 Mainst.	

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



READING AND REFERENCE ROOM IN THE BUTTRICK MEMORIAL LIBRARY, WALTHAM, MASS.

From: Collection: Waltham Public Library ca. 1920

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 Group

Name Waltham MRA  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review Date/Signature

- |         |  |                                     |           |                     |                |
|---------|--|-------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|----------------|
| 11.     | Boston Manufacturing Company Housing<br>(153--165 River St.) | Entered in the<br>National Register | ✓ Keeper  | <u>Helene Byers</u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| 12.     | Brigham House  | Entered in the<br>National Register | ✓ Keeper  | <u>Helene Byers</u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| 13.     | Building at 202--204 Charles Street                          | Entered in the<br>National Register | ✓ Keeper  | <u>Helene Byers</u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| 14.     | Buttrick, Francis, House                                     | Entered in the<br>National Register | ✓ Keeper  | <u>Helene Byers</u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| 500 15. | Buttrick, Francis, Library                                   | Substantive Review                  | SM Keeper | <u>Betty Savage</u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| 16.     | Byam, Charles, House   | Entered in the<br>National Register | ✓ Keeper  | <u>Helene Byers</u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| 17.     | Central Square Historic District                             | Entered in the<br>National Register | ✓ Keeper  | <u>Helene Byers</u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| 18.     | Charles Street Workers' Housing<br>Historic District         | Entered in the<br>National Register | ✓ Keeper  | <u>Helene Byers</u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| 500 19. | Christ Episcopal Church                                      | Substantive Review                  | SM Keeper | <u>Betty Savage</u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| 20.     | Clough, Benjamin F., House                                   | Entered in the<br>National Register | ✓ Keeper  | <u>Helene Byers</u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89001547

Date Listed: 09/28/89

Buttrick, Francis, Library  
Property Name

Middlesex  
County

MA  
State

Waltham MRA  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Beth L. Savage*  
Signature of the Keeper

9/28/89  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

#### Section #7: Materials

Sandstone is the correct material for the trim, as indicated under "exterior wall fabric," but contrary to the description of limestone in the text of the "architectural significance" section.

This information was confirmed by Ann Tait, Acting National Register Director, MASHPO, by telephone.

#### DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Buttrick, Francis, Library  
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: 89001547

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: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 9/28/89 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C  
REVIEWER Swasey  
DISCIPLINE Architectural History  
DATE 9/28/89

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

---

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

---

FUNCTION

historic       current

---

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Buttrick, Francis, Library

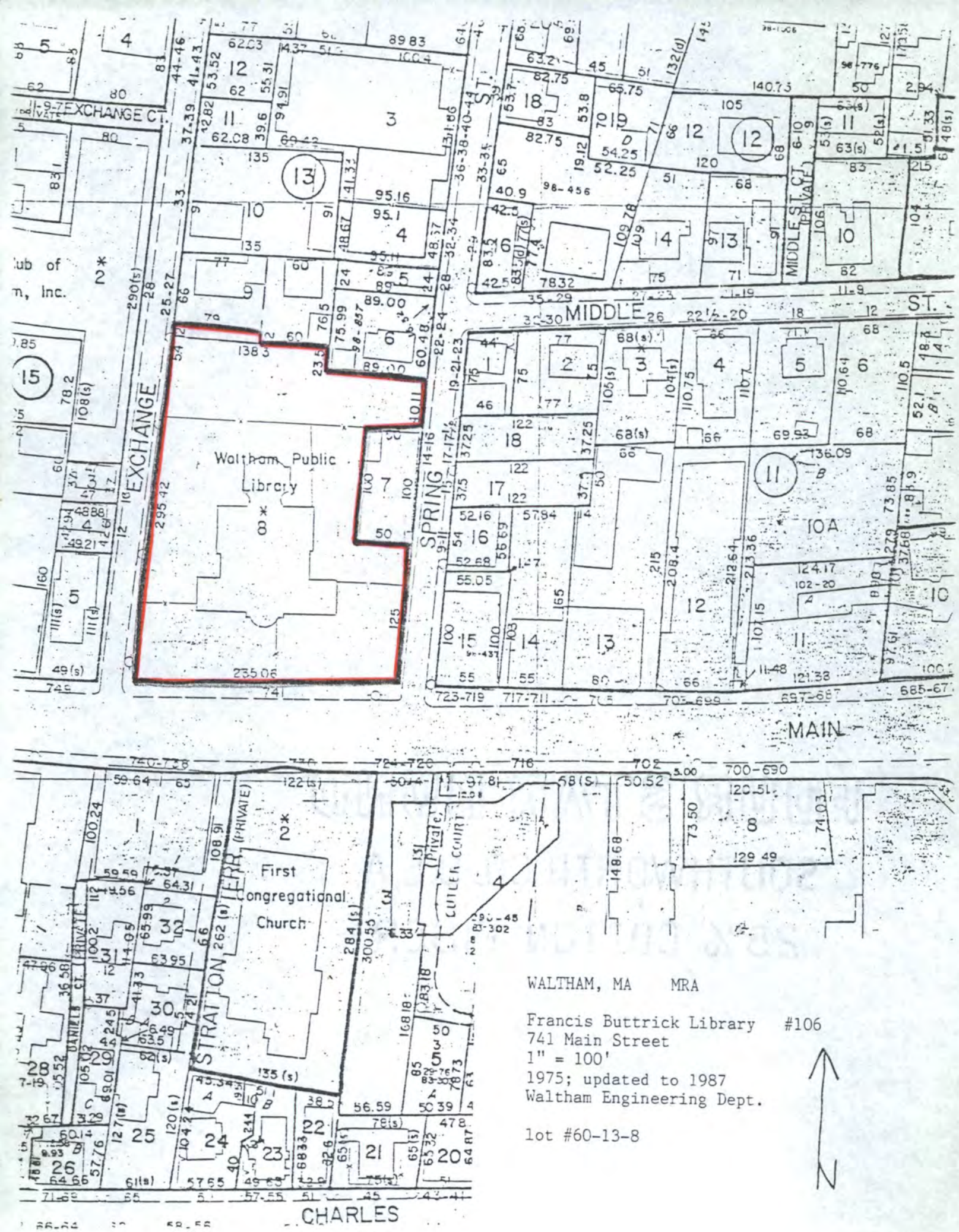
741 Main St

W.P.L.

741 Main St MtC # 106

Waltham, MA.

MRA



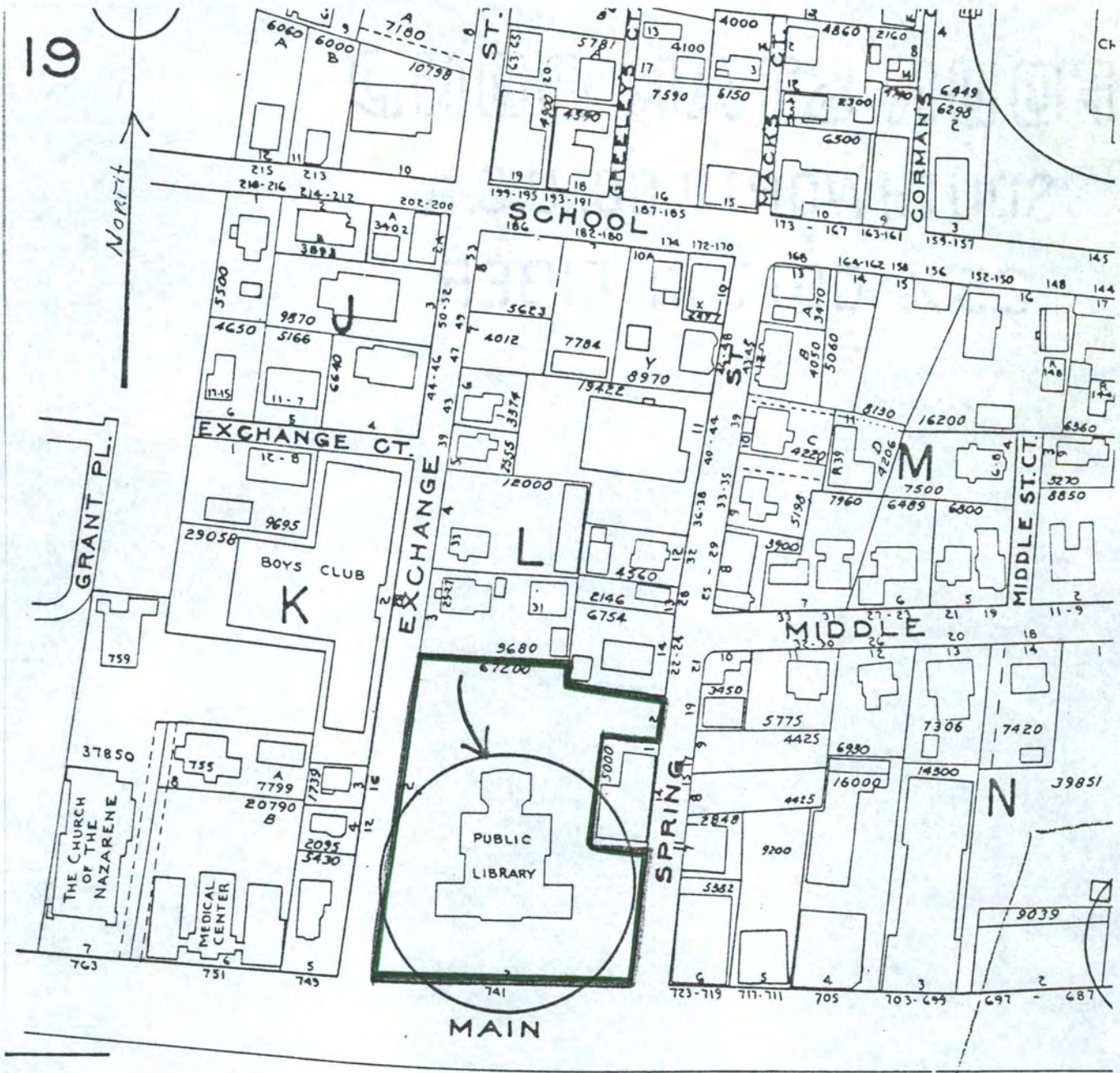
WALTHAM, MA MRA

Francis Buttrick Library #106  
 741 Main Street  
 1" = 100'  
 1975; updated to 1987  
 Waltham Engineering Dept.

lot #60-13-8



CHARLES



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

Waltham, Massachusetts MRA  
 741 Main Street  
 Francis Buttrick Library  
 16-L-2 MHC #106

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301