

MAY 23 1989

727

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREAFORM NO.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| D | 287 |
|---|-----|

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

Town WakefieldAddress 21 Chestnut StreetHistoric Name NAUse: Present DwellingOriginal Dwelling

## DESCRIPTION

Date c. 1850Source Visual Analysis & Ruth WoodburyStyle ItalianateArchitect John StevensExterior Wall Fabric ClapboardOutbuildings Garage noncontributingearly 1900sMajor Alterations (with dates) NoneCondition ExcellentMoved NA Date NAAcreage Under one acreSetting Faces south on raised lotwith two iron horse posts infront.UTM REFERENCE 19/329540/4707550USGS QUADRANGLE Reading, Mass.SCALE 1:25,000Recorded by Architectural Preservation AssociatesOrganization Wakefield Historical CommissionDate March 1985

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

One of the best preserved examples of high style Italianate design in Wakefield, this house was designed by local architect John Stevens. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and meets Criterion C of the NRHP on the local level.

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

This is one of the best-preserved Italianate houses in Wakefield. It is also one of the highest style examples. It is two stories in height and three broad bays wide. Its gable roof ridge is parallel to the street, an intersecting gable on the south facade contains a pair of Italianate arched windows flanked by smaller pair at each side. First floor windows are full length with 4/4 sash. The door surround is an eared architrave design with full length etched glass sidelights and a transom. A one story verandah runs across the south facade. It is supported on slender paired colonnettes. Paired brackets ornament the eaves and the porch.

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

Chestnut Street was laid out in 1847 between Main Street and North Avenue. It was fairly quickly built up judging by the number of Italianate style houses on its blocks. John Stevens, one of the few recorded architects working in Wakefield in the 19th c. was the architect of this house. Stevens was working in S. Reading between 1847 and at least 1871. Among other buildings, he designed the present Town Hall which was originally the High School of 1871 and the Town Hall of 1868 given to the town by Cyrus Wakefield. Nathaniel Dearborn who was living here in the 1870s was a printer, born in Boston in 1814 who began working in New York and later set up Boston's foremost type printing establishment. He published the American Textbook of Letters and in 1846 moved to South Reading where he was active in the Richardson Light Guard, and was a trustee of the Lakeside Cemetery. He died in 1891.

The house was for many years owned and occupied by Frank T. Woodbury, a physician on the Board of Health and Ruth Woodbury, Wakefield's well-known historian. She is part of a strong tradition in Wakefield begun by Lilley Eaton and continued by many of his descendants and other residents who documented and recorded the town's history, its better known residents, events and buildings.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Middlesex Registry of Deeds Plan Book 7 Page 30.  
Wakefield Historical Society. Vertical Files, Ruth Woodbury correspondence.  
Maps of 1874 (N.S. Dearborn), 1889 (Mrs. L.S. Dearborn), 1906 (Lucy S. Dearborn).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic GroupName Wakefield MRA  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

31. House at 19--21 Salem Street  
Entered in the  
National Register  
for Keeper Aelores Byun 7/6/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
32. House at 190 Main Street  
Entered in the  
National Register  
for Keeper Aelores Byun 7/6/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
33. House at 193 Vernon Street  
Entered in the  
National Register  
for Keeper Aelores Byun 7/6/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
34. House at 196 Main Street  
Entered in the  
National Register  
for Keeper Aelores Byun 7/6/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
35. House at 2 Nichols Street  
Entered in the  
National Register  
for Keeper Aelores Byun 7/6/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
36. House at 20 Hancock Road  
Entered in the  
National Register  
for Keeper Aelores Byun 7/6/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
37. House at 20 Lawrence Street  
Entered in the  
National Register  
for Keeper Aelores Byun 7/6/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
38. House at 20 Morrison Road  
Entered in the  
National Register  
for Keeper Aelores Byun 7/6/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
39. House at 21 Chestnut Street  
Entered in the  
National Register  
for Keeper Aelores Byun 7/6/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
40. House at 22 Parker Road  
Entered in the  
National Register  
for Keeper Aelores Byun 7/6/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY House at 21 Chestnut Street  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Wakefield MRA  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 5/23/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/06/89  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/22/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/07/89  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000727

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 7/6/89 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

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CLASSIFICATION

☐ count      ☐ resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

☐ historic      ☐ current

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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 \_\_\_\_\_



D 287

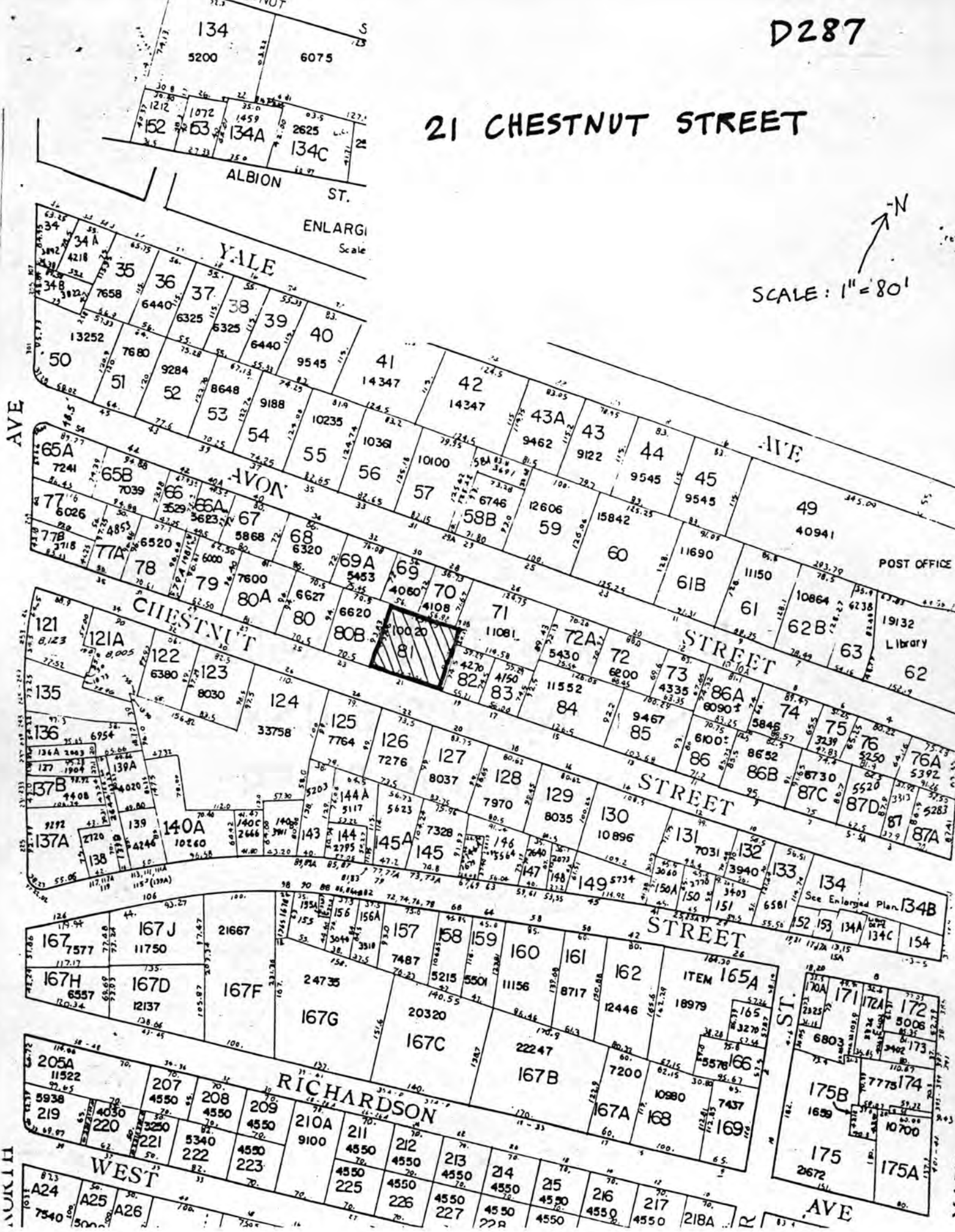
21 Chestnut St.

House at

Wakefield MRA, Ma

D287

# 21 CHESTNUT STREET



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000300