

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA

FORM NO.

5685, 5686

Newton, Mass. MRA
Town NEWTON (Newtonville)

Address 47 Kirkstall Rd/22 Oakwood Rd

Historic Name _____

James Lorin Richards House

Use: Present two residences

Original res. & carriage barn

DESCRIPTION

Date 1901

Source Water Dept. Records

Style Shingle Style

Architect prob. Samuel J. Brown

Exterior Wall Fabric wood shingles/fieldstone

Outbuildings Carriage barn converted
to residence (22 Oakwood Rd)

Major Alterations (with dates) fenestration
altered on 22 Oakwood (1950s)

Condition Excellent

Moved no Date ---

Acreage 44,786 sq. ft. (1.03 acres)

Setting early 20th-century hillside
residential neighborhood

Recorded by Bruce Fernald; Peter Stott

Organization Newton Historical Comm.

Date October 1980; April 1986

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 19.318450.4690080

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON, MA

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

This property, built as the house (47 Kirkstall Road) and carriage barn (22 Oakwood Road) of a single estate, are now two separate residences. Both are characteristic high-style examples of the Shingle Style as interpreted by a popular Newton architect, Samuel J. Brown. As unusual intact assemblage of Shingle Style house and carriage barn, as well as being the work of a know architect, the James Lorin Richards House and Barn meet criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

Contained under two broad gambrel roofs, the L-plan 2-1/2-story house features first-story walls of fieldstone with wood shingle wall areas above. Panelled rectangular oriel windows are a prominent design element on the first-story elevations. Polygonal oriels and triple windows are employed at the second story. A distinctly horizontal emphasis in this design is reinforced by a deep semi-circular veranda which extends off the west elevation. The veranda contains stone piers and is embellished by segmental arched bracing with keystone mouldings. Stone piers are also employed for the porte-cochere on the south elevation. This residence commands a sloping site at the top of Kirkstall Road.

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

James Lorin Richards (1858-1955), for whom this house was built in 1901, was born in East Longmeadow, Mass. Although he made his fortune in the tobacco business by the age of 40, he was best known as a pillar of the Boston business community, at one time serving on the boards of thirty-three separate companies at the same time. Although he never attended college, he was a trustee of Wesleyan and Northeastern universities.

Richards probably moved to the Boston area in the 1890s. Street railways were then rapidly expanding throughout Eastern Massachusetts as electric power dramatically increased their popularity and utility. Richards became active in their formation and was a director of six such companies, as well as president of the Norumbega Park Company, which built Auburndale's famous riverside amusement and recreation area at the terminus of the Commonwealth Avenue Street Railway. Richards probably was instrumental in the eventual merger of these lines into the Middlesex and Boston Street Railway Company. Headquarters of the line was in Newtonville, and Richards became its Chairman of the Board. For 35 years he was a director of the New Haven Railroad.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

"James L. Richards," Boston Daily Globe 4 January 1955, p. 9.
The Newton Graphic, Beautiful Newton: The Garden City of the Commonwealth, pp. 151, 164.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
Newton, Mass. MRA	5685
	5686
Property Name: 47 Kirkstall/22 Oakwood	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Like the house, the carriage barn has fieldstone walls surmounted by a broad gambrel roof. Because this structure is located on a steeply sloping lot, it has an additional half story beneath the main elevation at the southwest corner. A polygonal bay window constructed of stone is an unusual feature of this design. Recent alterations to the structure include metal casement windows and a plate glass window.

As president of the Norumbega Park Company, Richards commissioned Newtonville architect Samuel J. Brown (1853-1926) to design the Shingle Style buildings. It is likely that Richards later engaged Brown to design his own estate on Kirkstall Road.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Richards was also "one of the pioneers in the utility industry." At one time, he was president of five greater Boston gaslight companies, and was probably connected with their merger into the Boston Consolidated Gas Company, of which he was chairman at the time of his death.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 7/23/86

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Newton MRA
State Middlesex County, MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

101. Rawson Estate

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

102. Richards, James Lorin, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

103. Riley, Charles, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

104. Sacco---Pettee Machine Shops

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 12/23/86

Attest

105. Salisbury, Jonas, House
62 Walnut ParkEntered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

106. Salisbury, Jonas, House
85 Langley Rd.Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

DOE 107. Silver Lake Cordage Company

Substantive Review Determined Eligible

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

Patricia Anderson 9/4/86

Attest

Betsy Savage 9/4/86

108. Simpson House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

109. Smith, S. Curtis, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

110. Smith---Peterson House

Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/4/86

Attest

86001871

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Richards, James Lorin, House (Newton MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: JUL 23 1986 / 2/3/87
Date Due: 8/26/86 - 9/6/86
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 9-4-86
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ excellent | ☐ deteriorated |
| ☐ good | ☐ ruins |
| ☐ fair | ☐ unexposed |

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. 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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



22 Oakwood Ave., Newtonville

Neg. 80-E-17/10

Newton, Mass. MRA

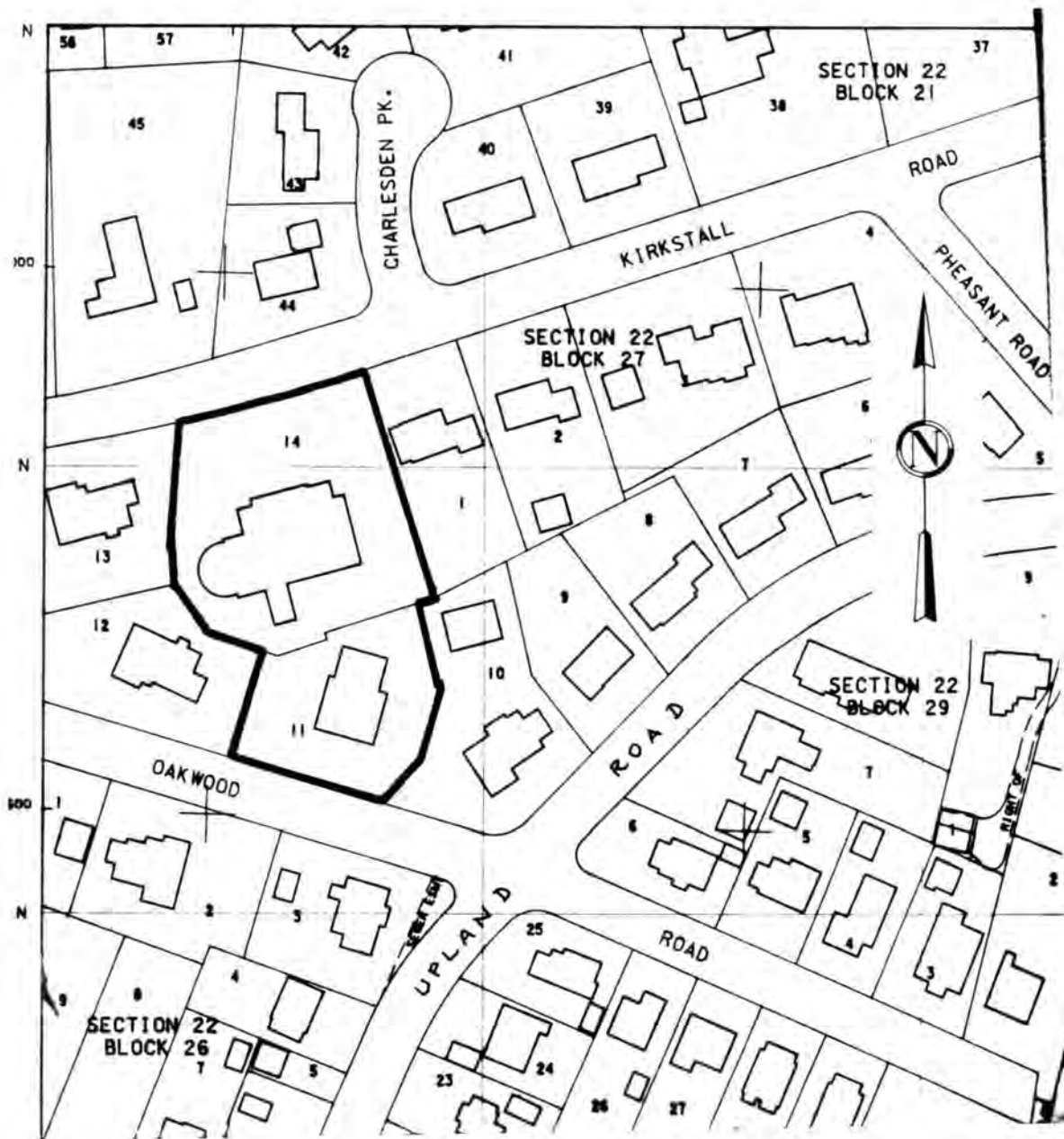
Richards, Jameson's House





Newton, Mass. MRA
47 Kirkstall/22 Oakwood,
(James L. Richards House)
Inv. #s 5685, 5686





Newton, Mass. MRA
 47 Kirkstall/22 Oakwood, Newtonville
 (James L. Richards House)
 22-27-11 & 14

City of Newton Assessor's Maps. Sheet 58
 Metric Series. 1979
 Scale: UTM grid line interval = 100 meters (328 feet)