

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

| AREA | FORM NO. |
|------|----------|
|      | 3698     |

Town Newton, Mass. MRA  
NEWTON (West Newton)

Address 102 Highland Street

Historic Name Galen Merriam House

Use: Present Residence

Original Residence

DESCRIPTION

Date 1840s

Source Jackson Homestead Pub.

Style Italianate

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings Barn

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition Good

Moved no Date ---

Acreage 39,077 sq. ft. (less than 1 acre)

Setting Hillside location overlooking  
West Newton village

Recorded by Kathlyn Hatch, Peter Stott

Organization Newton Historical Comm.

Date March 1978, 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 19.316650.4690360

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON, MA

SCALE 1:25,000

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

As an elaborately detailed and well-preserved example of a large Italianate mansion on West Newton Hill, the Galen Merriam House meets 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.**

This large hillside estate remains a very well-preserved example of the early Italianate style residences that were built on West Newton Hill. The house was originally oriented to the north, facing the village center. The long side of the building appears on this elevation and features a center gable, entrance with transom and sidelights, and three-bay facade with a round window in the gable. The side of the house and an attached rear wing face Highland Street.

The building's detailing, primarily from Italianate motifs, includes eaves brackets and a long, bracketed veranda that appears on three sides of the house. The peaked windows at the gable level are a notable element of its trim; this motif is associated with contemporary Gothic Revival style design.

### **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, erected in the late 1840s, was apparently built for Galen Merriam, a Boston coal merchant, whose business was located on Harrison Avenue, near South Cove. Merriam owned much of the land on both sides of Highland Street, and after his move to Nahant about 1877, large parts of the estate were sold for development. The house and the remaining property were acquired by George A. Frost, one of the principals of the Boston firm of George Frost & Co., a manufacturer of ladies underwear.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Friends of the Jackson Homestead, Newton's Older Houses: West Newton (1978), pp. 38-39.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National 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 Group

Name Newton MRA  
State Middlesex County, MA

| Nomination/Type of Review  | Date/Signature  |
|--|---|
| 81. Hyde, Gershom, House<br><i>Entered in the National Register</i>        | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Delores Byers 9/4/86</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 82. Jackson House<br><i>Entered in the National Register</i>               | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Delores Byers 9/4/86</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 83. Jackson, Samuel, Jr., House<br><i>Entered in the National Register</i> | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Delores Byers 9/4/86</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 84. Jennison, Joshua, House<br><i>Entered in the National Register</i>     | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Delores Byers 9/4/86</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 85. Judkins, Amos, House<br><i>Entered in the National Register</i>        | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Delores Byers 9/4/86</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 86. King House<br><i>Entered in the National Register</i>                  | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Delores Byers 9/4/86</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 87. Kingsbury House<br><i>Entered in the National Register</i>             | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Delores Byers 9/4/86</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 88. Kistler House<br><i>Entered in the National Register</i>               | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Delores Byers 9/4/86</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 89. Merriam, Galen, House<br><i>Entered in the National Register</i>       | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Delores Byers 9/4/86</u><br>Attest _____ |
| 90. Mount Pleasant<br><i>Entered in the National Register</i>              | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Delores Byers 9/4/86</u><br>Attest _____ |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Merriam, Galen, House (Newton MRA)  
Middlesex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fed. Reg. Date: JUL 23 1986 2/3/87  
Date Due: 8/21/86 - 9/6/86  
Action:  ACCEPT 9-4-86  
           RETURN \_\_\_\_\_  
           REJECT \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

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

Substantive Review:    sample            request            appeal            NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

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<br>Public Acquisition | Status<br>Accessible | Present Use |
|----------|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|

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                          | Check one                             | Check one                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> altered            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    | <input type="checkbox"/> moved   date _____ |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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





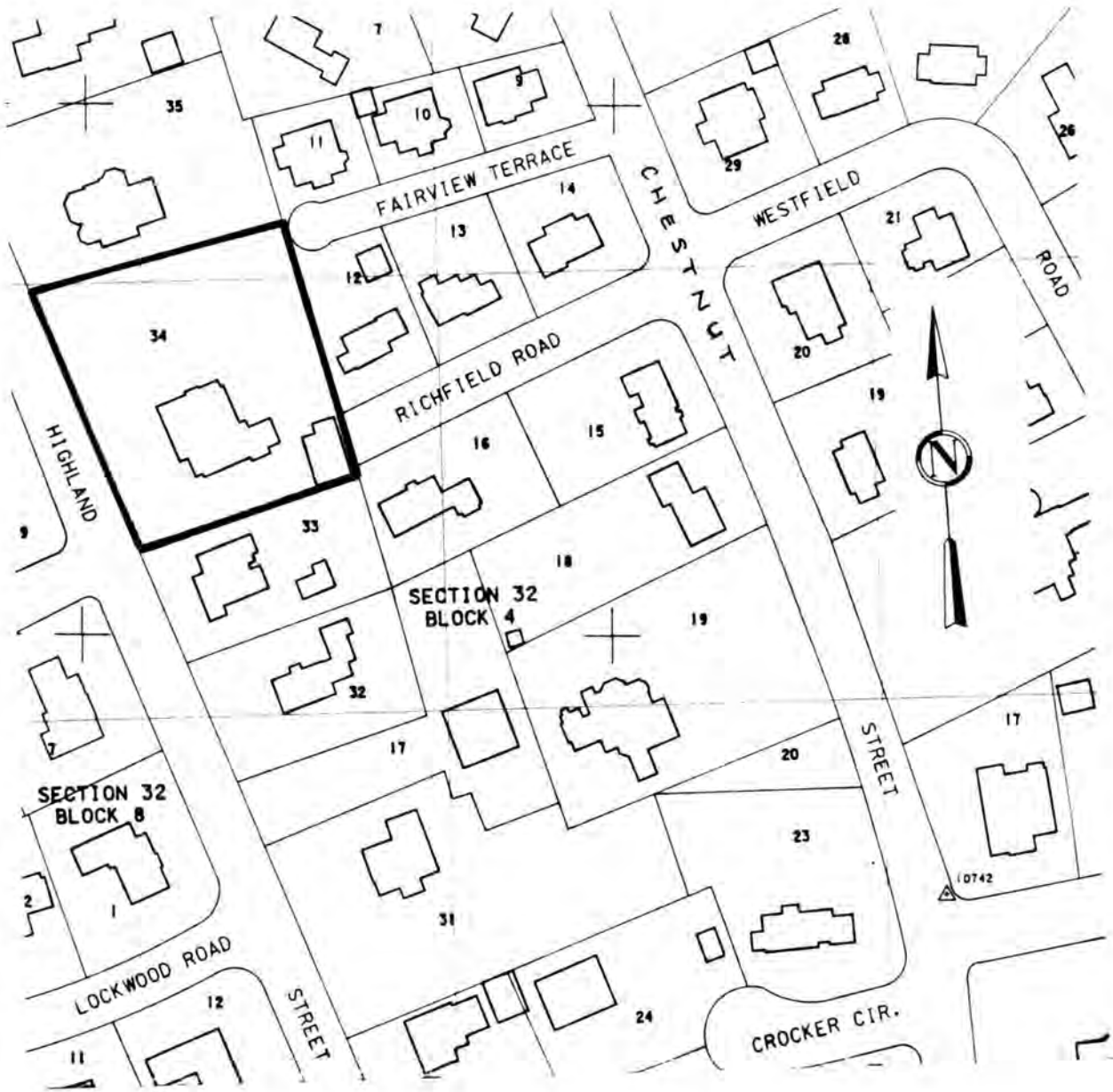
102 Highland St., West Newton

Neg. 78-B-2/18

Newton, Mass. MRA  
102 Highland St., West Newton  
(Galen Merriam House)  
Inv. #3698

Newton, Mass. MRA





City of Newton Assessor's Maps. Sheet 42  
 Metric Series. 1979  
 Scale: UTM grid line interval = 100 meters (328 feet)

Newton, Mass. MRA  
 102 Highland St., West Newton  
 (Galen Merriam House)  
 32-4-34