

MAY 23 1989

725

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
D	270

Town Wakefield

Address 95 Chestnut Street

Historic Name NA

Use: Present Dwelling

Original Dwelling

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

DESCRIPTION

Date 1849

Source proceedings of 250th Anniversary

Style Greek Revival

Architect NA

Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboards, Shingles

Outbuildings Garage noncontributing
c. 1930s

Major Alterations (with dates) Addition
on north-east. c. 1900

Condition Good

Moved NA Date NA

Acreage Under one acre

Setting Set on narrow lot with
fir trees.

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 19/328810/4707380

USGS QUADRANGLE Reading, Mass.

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Architectural Preservation Associates
Organization Wakefield Historical Commission
Date March 1985

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

A small and well preserved vernacular example of the Greek Revival Style, this house was built by inventor Joshua Whittemore, who patented an "elastic crutch" in 1862 which was marketed and sold worldwide. The house retains integrity of location, setting, design, 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 appears to be a Greek Revival house with a Stick Style porch added to it. The 1½ story house has its gable end to the street and is set on granite foundations, the most common in Wakefield until the last decades of the 19th century. The eaves make returns and the corner boards are wide. The porch is pedimented and ornamented with a sawtooth pattern. There is a fully pedimented dormer and 6/6 sash.

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

Joshua Whittemore, an important figure in Wakefield history, built this house in 1849. Whittemore seems to have been an adventurous and inventive man whose life accomplishments were many and varied. He began as a sailor out of Boston harbor then became a carpenter when he was 20 in 1834. He worked on the State House dome when it was covered with copper, worked in Boston on several important buildings, and in 1848 set himself up in business as a metal roofer. The following year he came to South Reading and built this house. He is said to have laid out Chestnut Street from Cedar to Prospect Street.

The loss of a leg in an accident in 1850 turned him to crutch making which he did in a building at the back of this house where he also produced fireworks for Wakefield celebrations. His crutch invention was made in 1862, "The Whittemore Patent Elastic Crutch". It was known as the best crutch in the world and was produced until 1885. Whittemore was an Abolitionist and believed in equal rights for men and women.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Eaton Chester and Warren Eaton. Proceedings of the 250th Anniversary, Reading 1896.
Maps of 1857 (can't tell), 1874 (J. Whittemore), 1889 (J. Whittemore Crutch Factory in back of house), 1906 (Charles Whittemore).

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 Wakefield MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
61. House at 8 Park Street Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i></u> 7/6/89 Attest _____
62. House at 88 Prospect Street Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i></u> 7/6/89 Attest _____
63. House at 9 White Avenue Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i></u> 7/6/89 Attest _____
64. House at 90 Prospect Street Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i></u> 7/6/89 Attest _____
65. House at 95 Chestnut Street Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i></u> 7/6/89 Attest _____
66. Item Building Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i></u> 7/6/89 Attest _____
67. Jordan, Dr. Charles, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i></u> 7/6/89 Attest _____
68. Kendall, Deacon Thomas, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i></u> 7/6/89 Attest _____
69. Lakeside Cemetery Chapel Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i></u> 7/6/89 Attest _____
70. Lynnwood Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i></u> 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 95 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: 89000725

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

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 _____



95 Chestnut St.
Wakefield, Mass
Wakefield - M.R.A.

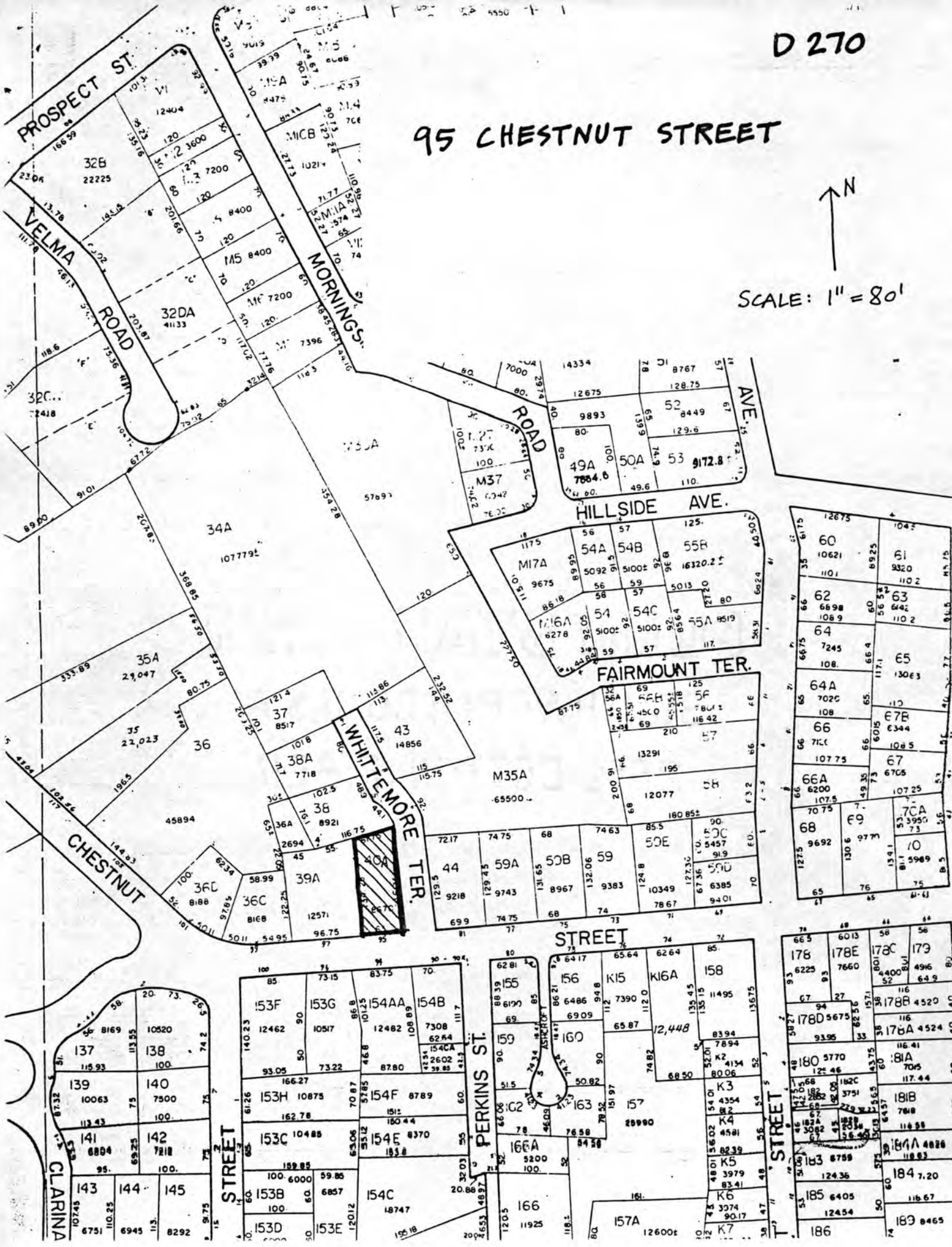
~~Photo~~: 1986

D 270

95 CHESTNUT STREET



SCALE: 1" = 80'



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000300