

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
	5119

Newton, Mass. MRA  
Town NEWTON (Newtonville)

Address 171 Lowell Avenue

Historic Name John A. Fenno House

Use: Present residence

Original residence

**DESCRIPTION**

Date c.1854

Source Jackson Homestead Pub. #13

Style Gothic Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboards

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

Entrance porch (late 19th cent.)

Condition Good

Moved yes Date c.1885

Acreage 6,531 sq. ft. (less than 1 acre)

Setting Residential neighborhood  
off Washington Street

Recorded by Bruce Fernald, Peter Stott

Organization Newton Historical Comm.

Date March 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 19.317850.4690930

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON, MA

SCALE 1:25,000

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

As a rare and well-preserved example of the Gothic Revival style of architecture in Newton, the John A. Fenno 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 residence is Newtonville's best example of the Gothic Revival style. Its design is characterized by two steep gable roofs which intersect to form an L-plan. The vertical emphasis of the design is underscored by tall, narrow bracketed windows and similarly proportioned diamond windows under the apex of each gable. Earred label mouldings embellish the pairs of 6/6 sash windows at the second story of each gable. During the late 19th century, an entrance porch with columns resting on a shingled kneewall was added to the south elevation of the house.

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

John A. Fenno (1849-1929), the ninth mayor of Newton, 1893-94, was the original owner of this house. For many years, Fenno was treasurer and superintendent of the Boston, Revere Beach, & Lynn Railroad. He did not enter public life, as a member of the Common Council, until 1888, several years after he had moved from this house into a larger residence.

As built, the house stood at the corner of Walnut Street and Madison Avenue. Fenno sold the house about 1885 to George A. Strout, who moved the house to its present location.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

- Brimblecom, Newton, the Garden City, p. 89.  
"John A. Fenno," The Newton Graphic 22 November 1929, p. 6.  
Friends of the Jackson Homestead, Newton's Older Houses: Newtonville  
(1980), Publication No. 13.  
City Atlases: 1874, 1886, 1907.  
City Directory: 1887.

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

4

Name Newton MRA  
State Middlesex County, MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

41. Dupee Estate

Entered in the  
National Register for Keeper

Delores Byrum 9/4/86

Attest

42. Elliott, Charles D., House

Entered in the  
National Register for Keeper

Delores Byrum 9/4/86

Attest

43. Eminence, The

Entered in the  
National Register for Keeper

Delores Byrum 9/4/86

Attest

44. Estabrook, Rufus, House

Entered in the  
National Register for Keeper

Delores Byrum 9/4/86

Attest

45. Evangelical Baptist  
Church

Entered in the  
National Register for Keeper

Delores Byrum 9/4/86

Attest

46. Farquhar, Samuel, House

Entered in the  
National Register for Keeper

Delores Byrum 9/4/86

Attest

47. Fenno, John A., House

Entered in the  
National Register for Keeper

Delores Byrum 9/4/86

Attest

48. First Unitarian Church

Entered in the  
National Register for Keeper

Delores Byrum 9/4/86

Attest

49. Fuller, Capt. Edward,  
Farm

Entered in the  
National Register for Keeper

Delores Byrum 9/4/86

Attest

50. Gane, Henry, House

Entered in the  
National Register for Keeper

Delores Byrum 9/4/86

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Fenno, John A., 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 Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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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"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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**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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

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Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

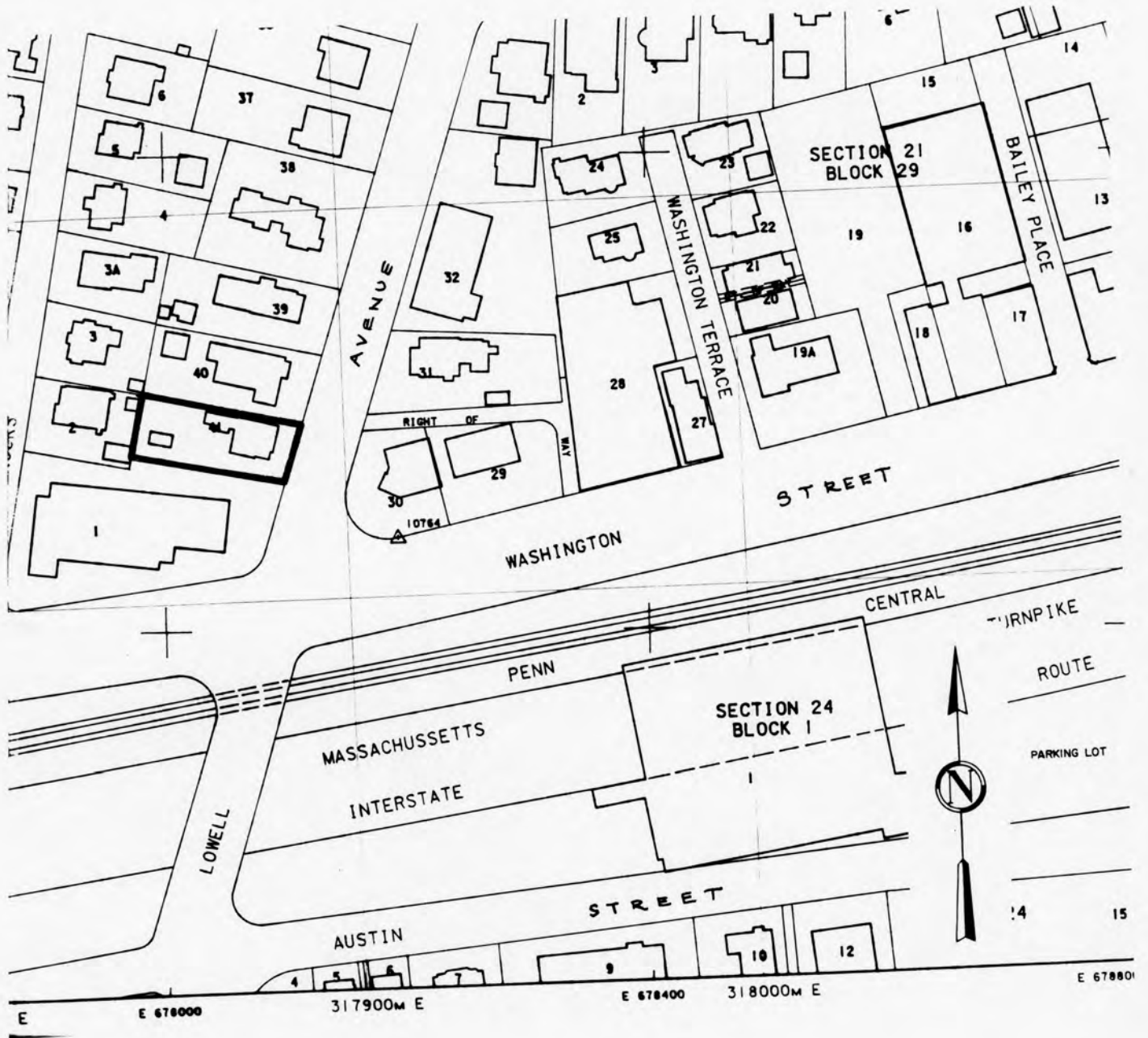
Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Newton, Mass. MRA  
171 Lowell Ave., Newtonville  
(John A. Fenno House)  
Inv. #5119

Newton, Mass. MRA





City of Newton Assessor's Maps. Sheet 31  
 Metric Series. 1979  
 Scale: UTM grid line interval = 100 meters (328 feet)

Newton, Mass. MRA  
 171 Lowell Ave., Newtonville  
 (John A. Fenno House)  
 21-32-41