

MAY 23 1989

670

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA

FORM NO.

A	29
---	----

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Wakefield

Address 556 Lowell 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 1894

Source Directory 1894

Style Queen Anne/Colonial Revival

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboard & Shingle

Outbuildings Carriage House, now residence contributing c.1894

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

None

Condition \_\_\_\_\_

Moved NA Date NA

Acreage 0.42 acres

Setting Set well back of road behind high hedge, carriage house in rear wide lawns and old trees surround house.

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

FIM REFERENCE 19/331480/4708810

USGS QUADRANGLE Reading, MA

SCALE 1:25,000

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

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

This is the largest and best example of Queen Anne high style architecture in the Montrose section of Wakefield. 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 the largest, most fully developed and ornate Queen Anne house in Montrose. It is set amid spacious lawns, secluded behind a high hedge, and has a large carriage barn/servants' quarters to the rear of the property. This is quite different from the other houses in the neighborhood, which tend to be oriented to the street, and set at the front of their small lots or fields, which extend behind them.

The house displays the Queen Anne focus on complex, asymmetrical massing, with porches, oriels, and a 3 story copper turreted bay, and a parallel complexity of surface ornament, sometimes with Colonial Revival motifs. Some of these include applied porch pediment carvings, ornamented spandrels, shingled bands on the bays, and turned spindles on the porch frieze. The insistent horizontal line, emphasized by the shingled roofs of the porch and gabled pediment is more pronounced here

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

than in most local Queen Anne houses. The gambrel carriage barn is also of architectural interest.

The area of Lowell and Salem Streets, both ancient roads to Salem, was thinly settled with farms from the earliest days of Wakefield's settlement. It remained rural and relatively isolated until the opening of the South Reading Branch, later the Wakefield Branch, of the Boston and Maine Railroad in 1850, with a depot near the junction of the present Audobon Road. The tiny hamlet experienced some early suburban settlement, but it remained small, with development mainly along the old transportation arteries.

The same family names tend to appear and reappear on successive maps. The Lyons family appears on the maps of 1874 with one house, the 1889 map with three houses, and this one appears to have been built about 1894 for Denis Lyons. Unlike the rest of his family, he was a merchant and a commuter, going to his firm, W. J. and D. Lyons Co. in Boston. Wine merchant.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Maps, 1874.  
1889.

Directories, 1894, 1896.

Wakefield, its Representative Business Men and Points of Interest.  
New York, 1893.

250th Anniversary-Reading History, photo p.207.

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
51. House at 39 Converse Street <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u><i>Alouise Byers</i></u> 7/6/89 Attest _____
52. House at 40 Crescent Street <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u><i>Alouise Byers</i></u> 7/6/89 Attest _____
53. House at 42 Hopkins Street <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u><i>Alouise Byers</i></u> 7/6/89 Attest _____
54. House at 5 Bennett Street <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u><i>Alouise Byers</i></u> 7/6/89 Attest _____
55. House at 509 North Avenue <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u><i>Alouise Byers</i></u> 7/6/89 Attest _____
56. House at 52 Oak Street <u>Substantive Review</u>	Keeper <u><i>Beth L. Savage</i></u> 7/6/89 Attest _____
57. House at 54 Spring Street <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u><i>Alouise Byers</i></u> 7/6/89 Attest _____
<del>58. House at 556 Lowell Street</del> <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u><i>Alouise Byers</i></u> 7/6/89 Attest _____
59. House at 6 Adams Street <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u><i>Alouise Byers</i></u> 7/6/89 Attest _____
60. House at 7 Salem Street <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u><i>Alouise 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 NAME: House at 556 Lowell Street

MULTIPLE NAME: Wakefield MRA

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: 89000670

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 \_\_\_\_\_



A 29

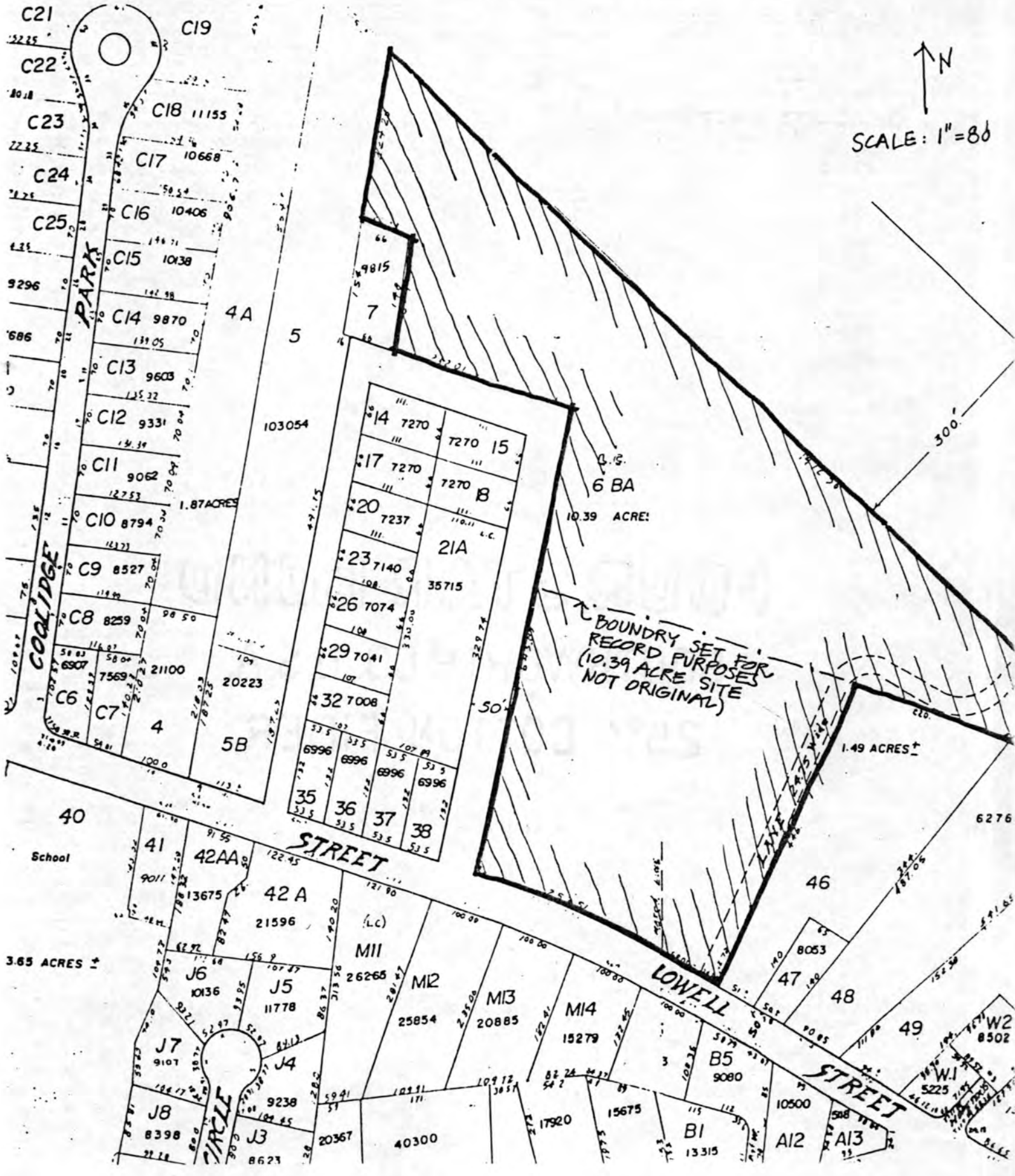
↑ 556 Lowell St.

House at

Wakfield MRT, Ma

# 556 LOWELL ST

↑ N  
SCALE: 1" = 80'



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000300