

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

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)

AREA	FORM NO.
	3073

Town Newton, Mass. MRA
NEWTON (West Newton)

Address 32 Eden Avenue

Historic Name _____

Seth Davis House

Use: Present Residence

Original Residence

DESCRIPTION

Date 1820s

Source Jackson Homestead Pub.

Style Greek Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric brick

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

Porch balustrades added, early 20th c

Condition Good

Moved no Date ---

Acreage 12,191 sq. ft. (less than 1 acre)

Setting 20th century residential

neighborhood

Recorded by Kathlyn Hatch

Organization Newton Historical Comm.

Date December 1977

UTM REFERENCE 19.3 16740.46 90920

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON, MA

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

This well-proportioned Greek Revival-style building represents one of the finest remaining examples of the style in Newton. For its association with one of the leading figures in 19th-century West Newton, and for its architectural significance, the Seth Davis House meets criteria B and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

Once surrounded by large landscaped grounds that extended to Cheesecake Brook near Watertown Street, the Seth Davis House, constructed in brick in the 1820s, is a remarkably well-preserved example of the Greek Revival style. The primary elevation overlooks Watertown Street and contains a handsome doorway with sidelights. Doric porticoes appear at both the front and Eden Avenue facades.

Brick was used for much of the detailing of this handsome residence, including the three-part cornice entablature at the eaves, wide pilaster strips at the corners, and a front panel at the gable end articulated with dentils. Brownstone trims the window heads. The use here of brick for detailing is unusual, as wood-frame construction was preferred for most residences in Newton during the early 19th century.

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

Seth Davis (1787-1888), one of West Newton's most prominent residents, came to the village at the age of fifteen. With only 20 months of schooling, Davis became an eminent teacher, lecturer on astronomy, a trial justice, and county commissioner. In 1887, fifteen thousand people celebrated his hundredth birthday in West Newton.

Davis also became a wealthy property owner during the course of his lifetime in West Newton. The Railroad Hotel (#3069) at the junction of Watertown and Washington streets was one of his early investments. Davis Avenue, Davis Street, and Davis Court, all part of his extensive land holdings, were named after him, as was the Davis School on Waltham Street.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Friends of the Jackson Homestead, Newton's Older Houses: West Newton (1978), pp. 29-31.

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

31. Buckingham, John, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Helene Byers 9/4/86

Attest

32. Building at 1--6 Walnut
Terrace

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Helene Byers 9/4/86

Attest

33. Central Congregational
Church

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Helene Byers 9/4/86

Attest

34. Chestnut Hill, The

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Helene Byers 9/4/86

Attest

35. Claflin, Adams, Estate

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Helene Byers 9/4/86

Attest

36. Clark House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Helene Byers 9/4/86

Attest

37. Collins, Frederick,
House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Helene Byers 9/4/86

Attest

38. Curtis, Allan Crocker,
House--Pillar House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Helene Byers 9/4/86

Attest

39. Curtis, William, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Helene Byers 9/4/86

Attest

40. Davis, Seth, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Helene Byers 9/4/86

Attest

0600 1960

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Davis, Seth, House (Newton MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: JUL 23 1986 2/3/86
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
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ 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

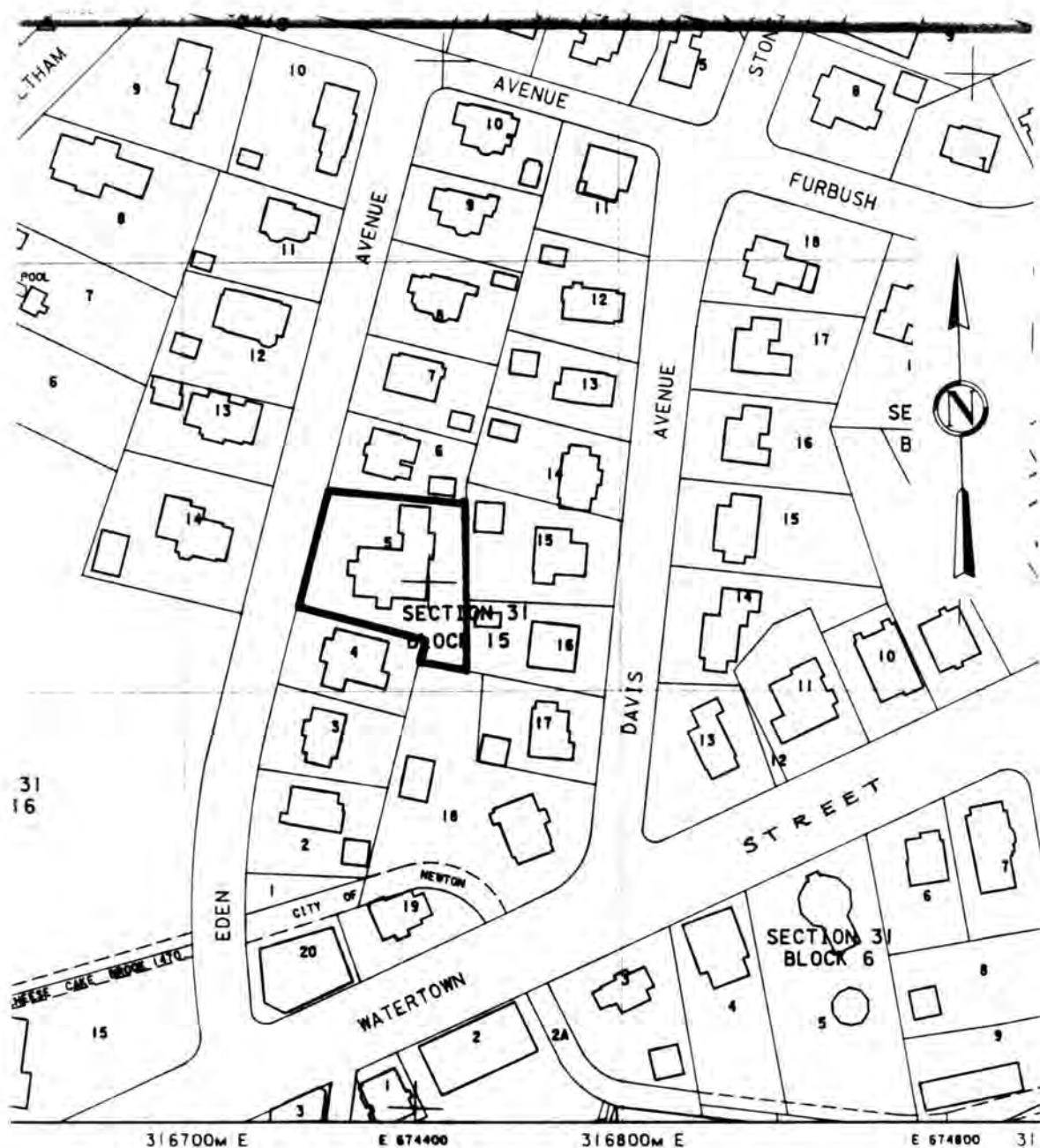
Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Newton, Mass. MRA
30-32 Eden Ave., West Newton
(Seth Davis House)
Inv. #3073

Newton, Mass. MRA



City of Newton Assessor's Maps. Sheet 29
Metric Series. 1979
Scale: UTM grid line interval = 100 meters (328 feet)

Newton, Mass. MRA
30-32 Eden Ave., West Newton
(Seth Davis House)
31-15-5