

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
85	W11

Newton, Mass. M.R.A.  
Town Newton (Waban)

Address 1637-51 Beacon Street  
(known as 2-12 Windsor Road)  
Historic Name Strong's Block

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

Use: Present commercial block  
Original commercial block

DESCRIPTION

Date 1896

Source Water Records

Style Dutch Colonial Revival

Architect Lewis H. Bacon

Exterior Wall Fabric red brick

Outbuildings none

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

Major Alterations (with dates) 1635-39

Beacon St added, rebuilt 1922;

1629-33 Beacon St added-1923

Condition Good

(SEE ATTACHED MAP)

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

Acreage 54, 198 sq. ft. (1.25 acres)

Setting Commercial center of village  
along major thoroughfare (formerly  
part of Sherborn Road)

UTM REFERENCE 19.316130.4688220

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON, MASS.

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Deborah Shea

Organization Newton Historical Comm.

Date 5/81; rev. by H. White 3/86

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

Strong's Block is one of the city's few remaining intact nineteenth century commercial blocks, and possesses integrity of design and location, and exhibits a high level of workmanship and materials, therefore meeting 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.

Strong's Block is a distinctive two and one-half story commercial block built in a style reminiscent of Flemish architecture of the Renaissance period. The focal point of the design is the gable roof of slate with its stepped end parapets, a motif repeated in the center gable of the facade. Windows of the gable and second story are set beneath panels of decorative brick; flanking windows are set beneath jack arches.

The building was designed by Lewis H. Bacon, a Waban resident, and partner in the architectural firm of Hill & Bacon.

The upper floors were apartments with storefronts on the ground level.

A rendering of the building appeared in the October 31, 1896 issue of American Architect & Building News. Sympathetically designed additions to the west elevation were made during the 1920s.

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

William C. Strong, a prominent local citizen who resided nearby at 48 Windsor Road, had this stylish commercial block built to serve the expanding population of the village which eventually became known as Waban. During the 1880s Strong was among those instrumental in bringing the Circuit Railroad through this area, and stimulating the suburban development of the village. Strong intended to profit from the construction of the Circuit Railroad, and laid out Windsor Road on Moffatt Hill, where he offered ample houselots for sale.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Atlas: 1907

City Directories: 1895, 1897.

American Architect & Building News. Oct. 31, 1896.

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

- 111. Souther, John, House  
Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper *Delores Byers* 9/4/86  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 112. Staples--Crafts--Wiswall Farm  
Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper *Delores Byers* 9/4/86  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 113. Stone, Ebenezer, House  
~~Entered in the National Register~~ *Substantive Review* *Determined Eligible* *for* Keeper *Eligible Talwick Andrus* 9/4/86  
*JOE/DAVID COLLECTION*  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 114. Stone, Joseph L., House  
Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper *Delores Byers* 9/4/86  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 115. Strong's Block  
Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper *Delores Byers* 9/4/86  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 116. Thaxter, Celia, House  
Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper *Delores Byers* 9/4/86  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 117. Thayer House  
Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper *Delores Byers* 9/4/86  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 118. Ward, Ephraim, House  
Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper *Delores Byers* 9/4/86  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 119. Wheat, Samuel, House  
Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper *Delores Byers* 9/4/86  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 120. Woodward, John, House  
Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper *Delores Byers* 9/4/86  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

86001891

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Strong's Block (Newton MRA)  
Middlesex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

JUL 23 1986

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_

Fed. Reg. Date: 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	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

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

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- 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: \_\_\_\_\_



**WABAN HARDWARE**  
*Kyanize* PAINTS

**THE PRACTICAL PLACE**  
HIS & HERS  
APPAREL • ACCESSORIES • GIFTS

**CUMMINS**  
WARDROBE  
SERVICE

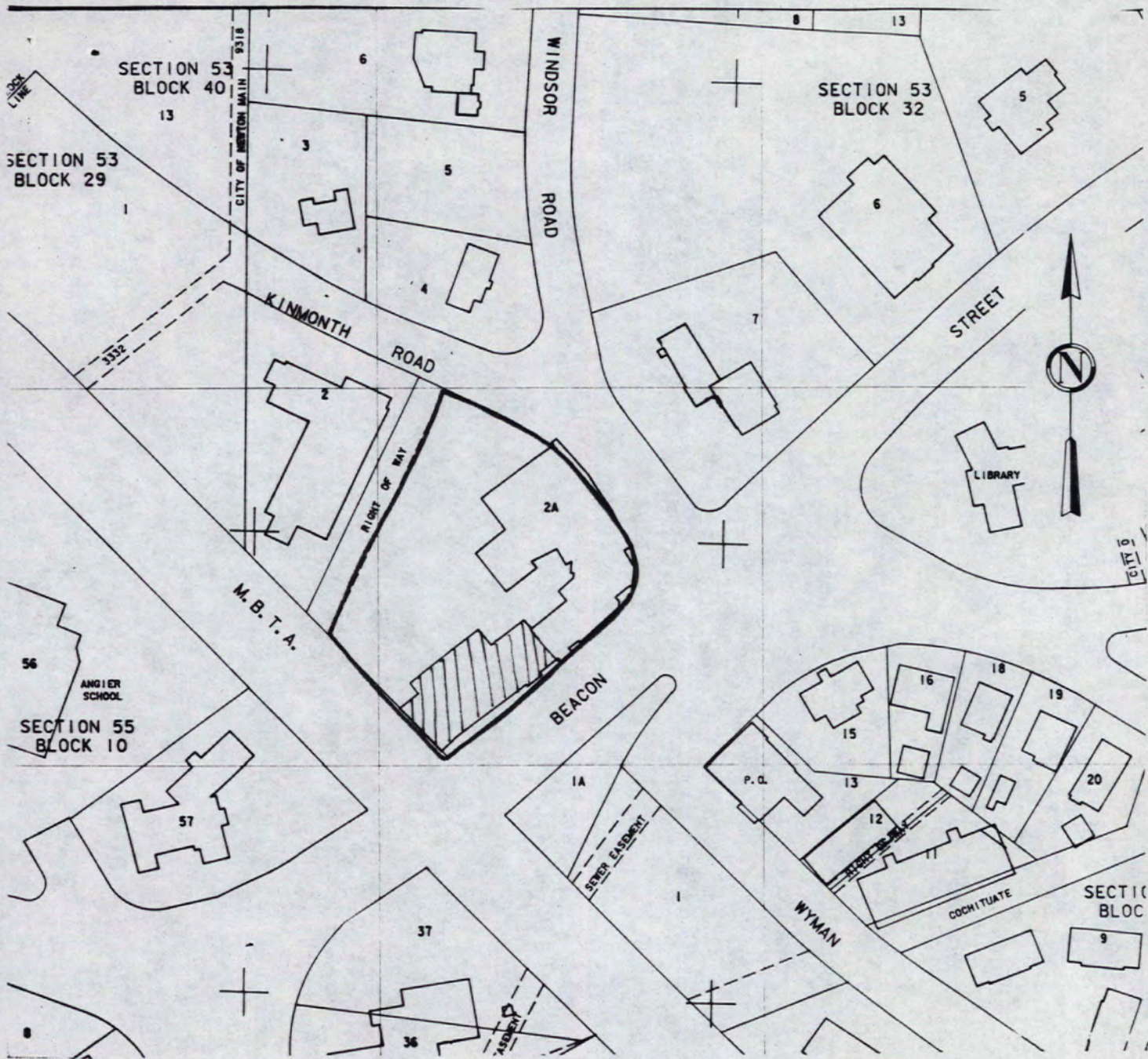
Strong's Block

APR 1958

APR 1958

Newton, Mass. MRA

- 1637-51 Beacon St, Waban  
Strong's Block MR-A-2 (29) -



City of Newton Assessor's Maps. Sheet 101  
 Metric Series. 1979  
 Scale: UTM grid line interval = 100 meters (328 feet)

Newton, Mass. M.R.A.  
 1637-1651 Beacon Street, Waban  
 Strong's Block  
 53-29-2A