

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AUG 21 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER15 16
AREA

FORM NO.

31

WALTHAM, MA MRA
Waltham, Massachusetts

Address 337 Crescent Street

Historic Name Charles Byam House

Use Present private residential

Original private residential

DESCRIPTION

Date 1883 - 1886

Source Maps, Atlases

Style Queen Anne

Architect -unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboards

Outbuildings garage NC

Major Alterations (with dates) - none

Condition good

Moved no - Date n/a

Acreage 0.23 A. 9,925 sq. ft. 76-8-3

Setting Overlooks Charles River,
part of Crescent St's collection of
well-crafted Queen Anne houses.

Recorded by Edward W. Gordon

Organization Waltham Historical Comm.

Date June, 1986

revised by C. Jenkins 3/88

Photo (3"x 3" 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 sheet

UTM REFERENCE 19/315280/4692290

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

337 Crescent Street is part of Crescent Street's collection of well-crafted and well-detailed Queen Anne houses. It provides an unspoiled glimpse of the home of a late 19th century, skilled, American Waltham Watch Company worker and department foreman. For many years, it was the home of Charles C. Byman, department foreman of the American Waltham Watch Company's escapement department. The Byam House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. As a representative of the development of the South Side's development by the "Watch" and as a well detailed example of the Queen Anne style it meets criteria A and C of the National Register.

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

This house exemplifies the type of substantial housing built for the upper echelon of American Waltham Watch Company employees along Crescent Street during the 1880's and 1890's. Architecturally, it represents a variation on a Queen Anne theme - its (as yet unidentified) house-builder constructed several similarly rendered houses in the Crescent Street/Adams Street section of the South Side. #337 Crescent Street is a compact, essentially rectangular plan house, which retains its clapboard sheathing. Its 3-bay main facade features a projecting center-pavilion, an open front porch with chinese fret-work railings, turned posts, and curvilinear brackets. The porch's entrance is marked by a broad gable. Projecting from its south wall is a 1-story oriel, which is surmounted by an open porch. The projecting center pavilion features a 2nd floor

(cont)

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

#337 Crescent Street was build ca. 1883-1886 for American Waltham Watch Company foreman, Charles C. Byam. During the early 1880's, he lived at 27 Maple Street and "Cherry Street next to the Common" - both South Side addresses. The 1886 Atlas clearly shows that 337 Crescent was built by 1886 - it appears labeled C.C. Byam on the 1886 Atlas. During the mid-1880's, he was the assistant foreman of the American Waltham Watch Company's escapement department. He was foreman of the department by 1890. Evidently he rose through the ranks as a skilled watch-machinery worker. Members of the Byam family owned this house until at least the late 1920's. This house's lot was part of the 160 acres purchased from the Bemis family by the Waltham Improvement Company (W.I.C.) in 1854. Most of W.I.C.'s investors were from Waltham, with many from the Boston Manufacturing Company and Newton Chymical. It was formed in 1853 to purchase the Bemis family's farm. A large riverside parcel fronted by a wide dust-buffer zone was resold to the Watch Company, and it soon became a park. W.I.C. was also beginning to lay out streets (which would be gas-lit), transforming the remainder of its one-sixth portion of the South Side, by its use of both a grid-system, and restrictive covenants. In force until the 1880's, these covenants

(cont)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps/Atlases - 1854, 1875, 1881, 1883, 1886, 1900, 1923
Waltham Directories - 1870's, 1880's, 1890's
Seymour, Nancy - "The Emergence of Waltham's South Side from the Seventeenth 8/85 Century to the Mid-Twentieth", 1986

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, 357 Crescent Street, continued

double-window, which is surmounted by a pointed, arched, attic window - this type of widow is evidently a sort of house builder's signature, as it appears on other houses in the area - most notably at 215 Adams Street (see Form). This house is enclosed by a slate-shingled hip-roof.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, continued

established the predominantly residential and Protestant character of the W.I.C's holding in the western section of the South Side. Crescent Street was lined with trees and seventeen houses within three or four years of the Watch Company's arrival.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 21 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Waltham MRA
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Boston Manufacturing Company Housing
(153--165 River St.) Entered in the
National Register Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
12. Brigham House Entered in the
National Register Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
13. Building at 202--204 Charles Street
Entered in the National Register Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
14. Buttrick, Francis, House Entered in the
National Register Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
- See 15. Buttrick, Francis, Library Substantive Review for Keeper Betty Savage 9/28/89
Attest _____
16. Byam, Charles, House Entered in the
National Register Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
17. Central Square Historic District
Entered in the National Register Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
18. Charles Street Workers' Housing
Historic District Entered in the
National Register Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
- See 19. Christ Episcopal Church Substantive Review for Keeper Betty Savage 9/28/89
Attest _____
20. Clough, Benjamin F., House
Entered in the National Register Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Byam, Charles, House
NAME:

MULTIPLE Waltham MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 8/21/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/05/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/21/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/05/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001576

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 9/28/89 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

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



Byron, Charles, Heise

MHC #31

337 Crescent St.

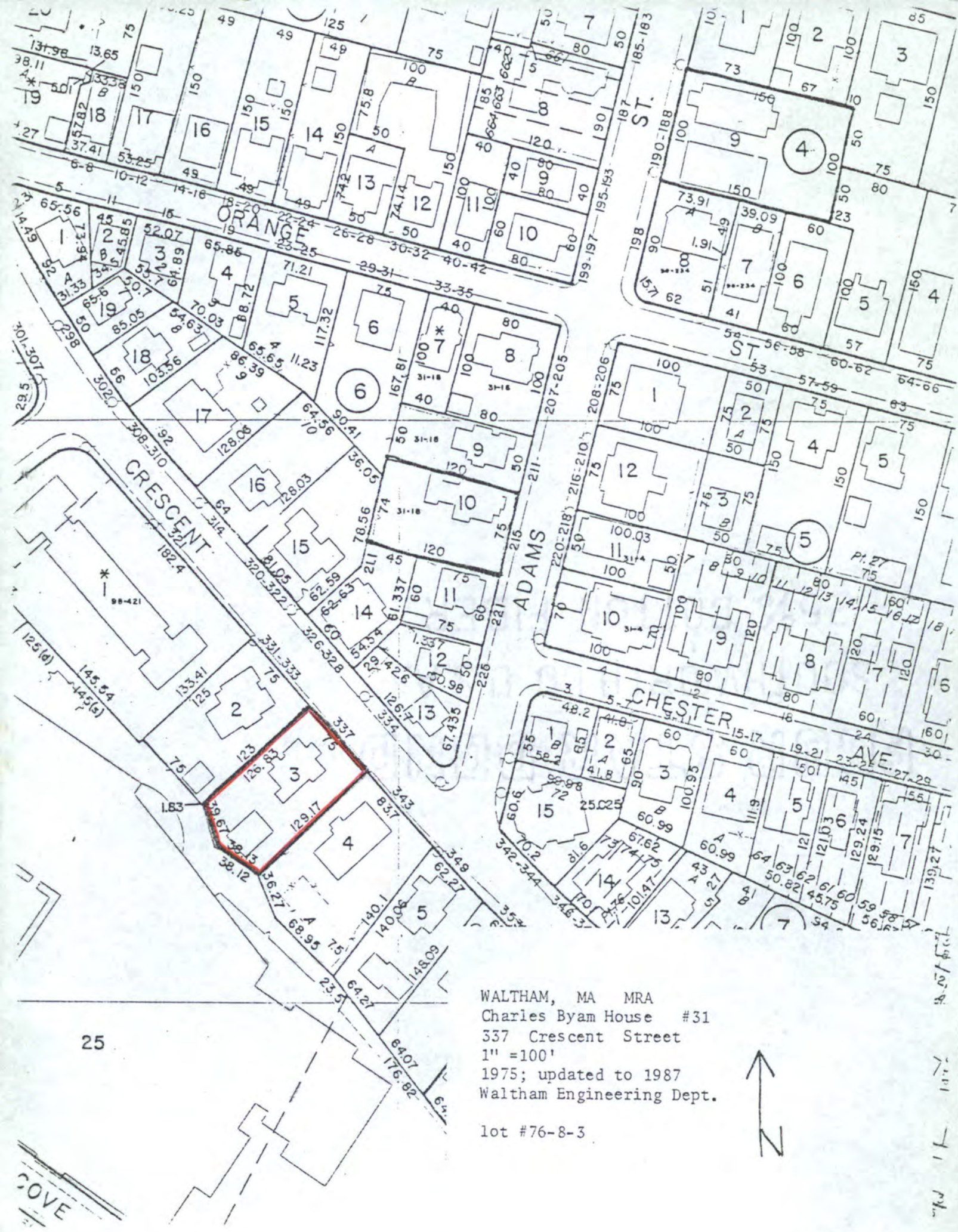
MRA - Waltham, MA.



Byam, Charles, Hesse

MHC # 31

Waltham, Ma MHA
337 Crescent St.



WALTHAM, MA MRA
 Charles Byam House #31
 337 Crescent Street
 1" = 100'
 1975; updated to 1987
 Waltham Engineering Dept.

lot #76-8-3



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COVE

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301