

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AUG 21 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

AREA

FORM NO.

39

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Town Waltham, MAAddress 41-43 Cherry StreetHistoric Name Fuller-Bemis HouseUse: Present ResidentialOriginal Residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1776Source Newton maps, Vital RecordsStyle GeorgianArchitect unknownExterior Wall Fabric ClapboardOutbuildings Garage NCMajor Alterations (with dates) Rear ell;conversion to two-family (ca. 1815)Condition GoodMoved no Date n/aAcreage 68-21-5

Setting On a corner in a residential
area of closely-spaced late 19th c.
houses

Recorded by Nancy S. SeasholesOrganization Waltham Historical Comm.Date August 1986

revised-C. Jenkins 2/88



geographical features. Indicate all buildings
between inventoried property and nearest
intersection(s).
Indicate north

see attached sheet

UTM REFERENCE 19/315440/4692740USGS QUADRANGLE NewtonSCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Fuller-Bemis Farmhouse is one of a handful of surviving Georgian period residences in the city. Built c1776 when the present South Side was still part of Newton, its original owner appears to have been a deacon of the Second Church of Newton. The house was converted to two-family use in the early 19th century and since that time, has been associated with the city's industrial history, particularly that of the Waltham Watch Company. The Fuller-Bemis House possesses integrity of location design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places. (integrity is to both periods of significance)

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

Set on a corner in a residential area composed almost exclusively of closely-spaced late nineteenth century houses, this is the only Georgian farmhouse in the area and one of the very few in the city. Although converted to two-family use and with many rear additions, it nonetheless retains many of its distinguishing features: a five-by-four bay Georgian profile, cornerboards, a molded cornice, plain window surrounds, and an ashlar foundation. Some of the ells at the rear are also an ashlar foundations, although the long ones are on brick. Nineteenth century features include an uncovered balustraded verandah, 2/2 sash, a stove chimney, and a projecting double entry porch.

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

This house was probably built ca. 1776 by Deacon Joseph Fuller of the Second Church of Newton. At that time, this section of Waltham was part of Newton; the Second Church was located in what is now West Newton Square, not too far from this house, and Deacon Fuller's first marriage was in 1776, suggesting a possible date of construction. In 1814 the administrator of Joseph Fuller's estate sold the property to Seth Bemis of Watertown; it included 70 acres with a dwelling house, barn, and potter's shop, except for the dower set aside for Fuller's widow Elizabeth (M.D.209:172-173). Later that year Elizabeth sold her dower to Bemis; the deed gives a very complete description of the land and buildings and specifies how the house was to be divided between the occupants of the east and west sides (M.D.214:40-43), so its conversion to two-family use may date from about this time.

CONT

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Fleishman, Thelma. Jackson Homestead, Newton, MA.

Vital Records of Newton, Massachusetts to 1850

Middlesex Deeds - 209:172, 214:40; 629:447; 659:491; 678:27; 1596:452;

Plan Book 4A, plan 9

Newton maps - 1770 reconstruction, 1831, 1848

Waltham maps and atlases - 1854, 1875, 1886, 1900, 1911, 1915, 1918, 1923

Directories - 1899, 1901, 1907, 1919, 1923

AUG 21 1989

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Community: Waltham, MA	Form No: 39
Property Name: Fuller-Bemis House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

The subsequent history of the house in the nineteenth century is not quite as clear. Although it continued to be owned by Seth Bemis, the 1831 map of Newton shows it occupied by a "Cory," presumably a tenant. The Coreys were associated with both the Bemises and the Fullers, however; the Newton Vital Records indicate that a Joseph Corey married Nancy Bemis in 1835 and that a Lucy Corey had an illegitimate son named Joseph Fuller Corey in 1832. In 1854 this property was sold to the Waltham Improvement Company, later the American Watch Company, along with the rest of the Bemis Farm. The Watch Company owned the house and presumably rented it until 1882, when they sold it to Jarvis Baker, a Watch Company employee. Jarvis Baker died in 1897 and his widow occupied the house for a few years longer. The house then seems to have been rented and it is difficult to trace the occupants; in 1923 the tenants were employees of the Waltham Watch and Clock Company.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

AUG 21 1989

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Fuller--Bemis House

MULTIPLE NAME: Waltham MRA

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: 89001495

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: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☒ RETURN ☐ REJECT 9/28/89 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Please elaborate on the property's eligibility under criterion A. What is particularly important about the association of this residence with the Waltham Watch Company?

RECOM./CRITERIA Return

REVIEWER Savage

DISCIPLINE Architectural History

DATE 9/28/89

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y ☒ see attached SLR Y ☒

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
___ UTMs ___ boundary justification

Please provide.

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☒ sketch maps ___ USGS maps ___ photographs ___ presentation
Please clarify which assessor's map is correct -

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

2 included each w/a different boundary.

Phone (202) 343-9540

Signed

Beth L. Savage

Date 9/28/89

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AUG 21 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

AREA

FORM NO.

39

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Town Waltham, MAAddress 41-43 Cherry StreetHistoric Name Fuller-Bemis House

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 ResidentialOriginal Residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1776Source Newton maps, Vital RecordsStyle GeorgianArchitect unknownExterior Wall Fabric ClapboardOutbuildings Garage NC

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*Major Alterations (with dates) Rear ells;conversion to two-family (ca. 1815)Condition GoodMoved no Date n/aAcreage <1 68-21-5

Setting On a corner in a residential area of closely-spaced late 19th c. houses

Recorded by Nancy S. SeasholesOrganization Waltham Historical Comm.Date August 1986UTM REFERENCE 19|315440|4692740USGS QUADRANGLE NewtonSCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Fuller-Bemis Farmhouse is one of a handful of surviving Federal period residences in the city. Built c.1776 when the present South Side was still part of Newton, its original owner appears to have been a deacon of the Second Church of Newton. The house was converted to two-family use in the early 19th century and was later integrated into the planned residential development of the neighborhood due to the growing population associated with the watch industry. The Fuller-Bemis House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It meets Criteria C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

Set on a corner in a residential area composed almost exclusively of closely-spaced late nineteenth century houses, this is the only Georgian farmhouse in the area and one of the very few in the city. Although converted to two-family use and with many rear additions, it nonetheless retains many of its distinguishing features: a five-by-four bay Georgian profile, cornerboards, a molded cornice, plain window surrounds, and an ashlar foundation. Some of the ells at the rear are also on ashlar foundations, although the long ones are on brick. Nineteenth century features include an uncovered balustraded verandah, 2/2 sash, a stove chimney, and a projecting double entry porch.

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

This house was probably built ca. 1776 by Deacon Joseph Fuller of the Second Church of Newton. At that time, this section of Waltham was part of Newton; the Second Church was located in what is now West Newton Square, not too far from this house, and Deacon Fuller's first marriage was in 1776, suggesting a possible date of construction. In 1814 the administrator of Joseph Fuller's estate sold the property to Seth Bemis of Watertown: it included 70 acres with a dwelling house, barn, and potter's shop, except for the dower set aside for Fuller's widow Elizabeth (M.D.209:172-173). Later that year Elizabeth sold her dower to Bemis; the deed gives a very complete description of the land and buildings and specifies how the house was to be divided between the occupants of the east and west sides (M.D.214:40-43), so its conversion to two-family use may date from about this time.

CONT

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Fleishman, Thelma. Jackson Homestead, Newton, MA.

Vital Records of Newton, Massachusetts to 1850

Middlesex Deeds - 209:172, 214:40; 629:447; 659:491; 678:27; 1596:452;

Plan Book 4A, plan 9

Newton maps - 1770 reconstruction, 1831, 1848

Waltham maps and atlases - 1854, 1875, 1886, 1900, 1911, 1915, 1918, 1923

Directories - 1899, 1901, 1907, 1919, 1923

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Community: Waltham, MA	Form No: 39
Property Name: Fuller-Bemis House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

The subsequent history of the house in the nineteenth century is not quite as clear. Although it continued to be owned by Seth Bemis, the 1831 map of Newton shows it occupied by a "Cory," presumably a tenant. The Coreys were associated with both the Bemises and the Fullers, however; the Newton Vital Records indicate that a Joseph Corey married Nancy Bemis in 1835 and that a Lucy Corey had an illegitimate son named Joseph Fuller Corey in 1832. In 1854 this property was sold to the Waltham Improvement Company, later the American Watch Company, along with the rest of the Bemis Farm. The Watch Company owned the house and presumably rented it until 1882, when they sold it to Jarvis Baker, a Watch Company employee. Jarvis Baker died in 1897 and his widow occupied the house for a few years longer. The house then seems to have been rented and it is difficult to trace the occupants; in 1923 the tenants were employees of the Waltham Watch and Clock Company.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| 31. | Fitch, Ezra, School | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 32. | Flagg, Frederick, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 33. | French, Daniel, School | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 34. | Fuller--Bemis House | Substantive Review | Keeper <u><i>Barry L. Savage</i></u> | <u>3/9/90</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 35. | Gale--Banks House | Substantive Review | Keeper <u><i>Barry L. Savage</i></u> | <u>3/9/90</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 36. | Gibbs, William, House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 37. | Gilbrae Inn | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 38. | Grove Hill Cemetery | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 39. | Hagar--Smith--Livermore--Sanderson
House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |
| 40. | Hager--Mead House | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper <u><i>Helene Byers</i></u> | <u>9/28/89</u> |
| | | | Attest _____ | |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Fuller--Bemis House

MULTIPLE NAME: Waltham MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 1/23/90

DATE OF PENDING LIST:

DATE OF 16TH DAY:

DATE OF 45TH DAY:

3/09/90

DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001495

NOMINATOR: STATE

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 3/9/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Locally significant relatively intact
rare surviving Federal period residence.
Initial return comments addressed.

*

The cut and paste of the inventory form
text is not acceptable. NPS will copy
page #2 onto archival paper.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C
REVIEWER Savage
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 3/9/90

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 _____



Bemis Fuller Farm House

Adams + Cherry St

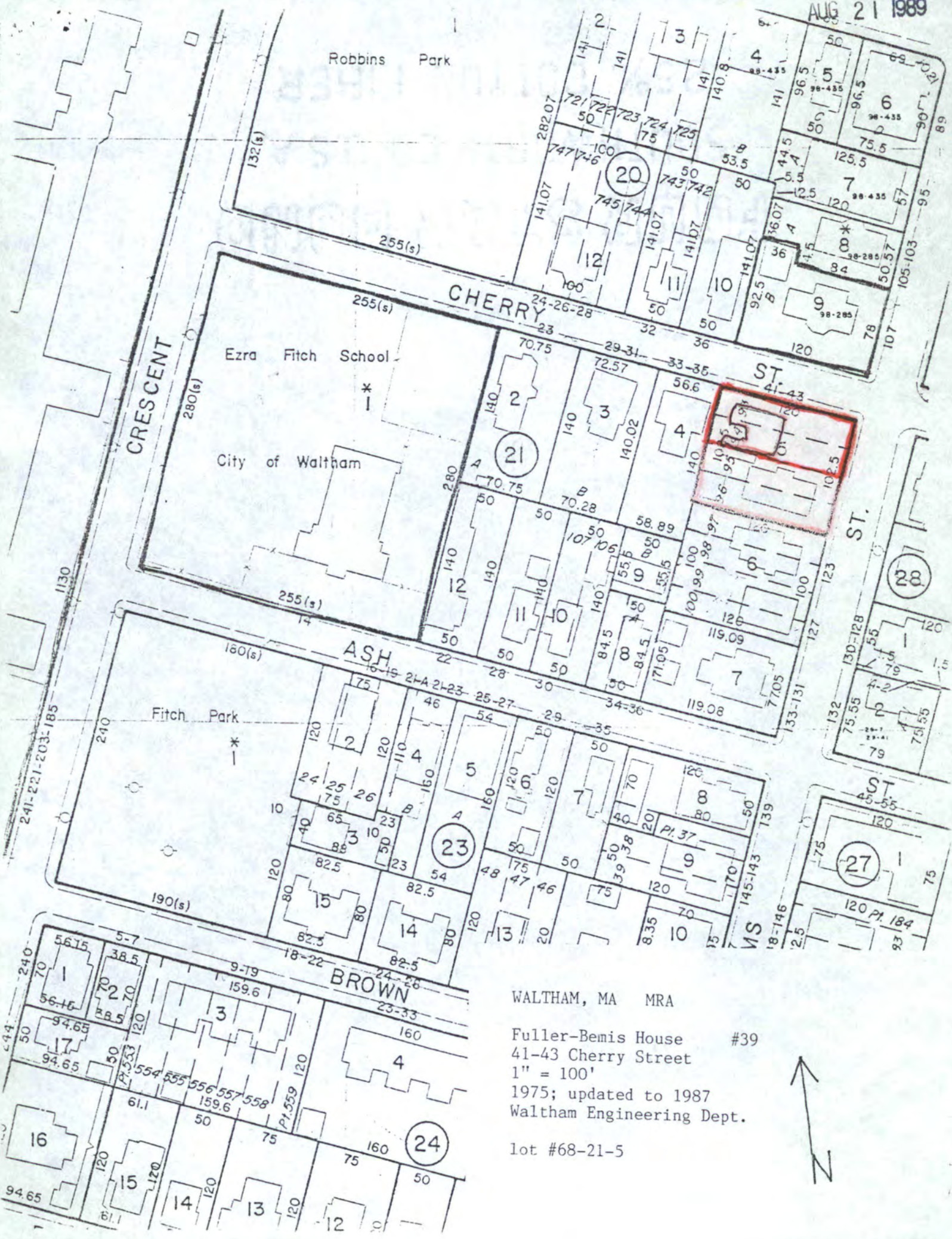
41-43 Cherry St.

WALTHAM, MA MA

39

Fuller - Bemis House

AUG 21 1989



WALTHAM, MA MRA

Fuller-Bemis House #39
41-43 Cherry Street
1" = 100'
1975; updated to 1987
Waltham Engineering Dept.

lot #68-21-5



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301