

MAY 23 1989

696

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA

FORM NO.

B

135

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

Town WakefieldAddress 694 Main StreetHistoric Name Dr. S. O. Richardson HouseUse: Present dwellingOriginal dwelling

DESCRIPTION

Date 1837-41Source Eaton, 1896Style Greek RevivalArchitect NAExterior Wall Fabric clapboardOutbuildings garage noncontributingMajor Alterations (with dates) 2 storyaddition rear - this centuryCondition FairMoved YES Date c. mid-1840'sAcreage Less than one acreSetting one corner, faces westUTM REFERENCE 19/329960/4706620USGS QUADRANGLE Boston North, MASCALE 1:25,000Recorded by Architectural Preservation AssociatesOrganization Wakefield Historical CommissionDate March, 1985

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Richardson House is notable as one of ^{two} the most high style Greek Revival houses in town, with unusually fine detailing, which was built by a prominent Wakefield doctor/manufacturer. The house retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and meets ~~exception~~ B, & 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 one of the most high style Greek Revival houses in Wakefield. It is unusual as the only gable end house with five bays facing the street, for its elegant recessed door surround, and for the fineness of its details. The center door surround is deeply recessed, and composed of a fluted architrave surround with bossed cornerblocks. Thin fluted pilasters, three quarter length sidelights, and a four light transom frame the door. A flushboarded pediment contains a gable window surmounted with a dummy fan. The smooth pediment and dummy fan are also used at 168 Salem Street, another finely detailed house of the same early Greek Revival period. The house was moved to the site, but does not appear to have been altered significantly.

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

This was the house of Dr. Solon O. Richardson (1809-1873), the son of Dr. Nathan Richardson (1781-1837). His father invented and began the manufacture in 1808 of Richardson's Sherry Wine Bitters, a medicinal concoction, which grew to be popular. The son, who grew up in North Reading but moved to South Reading, was also a good doctor before his own health broke down. After this he devoted himself to the manufacture of the medicine. He pioneered the design of the bottles, labels and wrappers, and devised new shipping and marketing strategies. The success of the product was said to bring him fame and affluence. He was a charitable, religious man, interested in history, he was the original mover in publishing Eaton's 1874 History of Reading, and the military. He was the founder of the Richardson Light Guards (1851), the local company which first served in the Civil War. The house may have served as its first armory. His son Solon O. Jr. also called Doctor, succeeded to the business. This house was probably built between Richardson's marriage in 1837 and the birth of his son in 1841. It was moved from a site on Main Street, but located behind the now demolished Wakefield Theater Building at Richardson Ave *in the mid 1840's.*

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

maps, 1857, 1874, 1889
Wakefield Item, 1944.

Eaton, Chester, and Eaton, Warren. Proceedings of the 250th Anniversary of the Ancient Town of Redding, Reading, 1896.
Hurd. Middlesex County, Boston, 1890.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

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

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

71. Massachusetts State Armory
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89

Attest _____

- ~~72. Richardson, Dr. S.O., House~~

~~Entered in the
National Register~~for Keeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89

Attest _____

73. Simpson, Dr. Thomas House
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89

Attest _____

74. South Reading Academy
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89

Attest _____

75. St. Joseph's School
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89

Attest _____

76. Stimpson, William, House
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89

Attest _____

77. Sweetser, Daniel, House
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89

Attest _____

78. Sweetser, Michael, House
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89

Attest _____

79. Temple Israel Cemetery
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Shelous Byers 7/6/89

Attest _____

80. Tilton, D. Horace, House
Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Shelous Byers 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: Richardson, Dr. S. O., House

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: 89000696

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

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



B 135

694 Main St.

694 MAIN ST

19

N

SCALE: 1" = 80'

IE
3.74 A
TOWN

STREET

NAHANT

FRANKLIN

STREET

ORCHARD ST.

SUMMER

STREET

CHARLES

HILL AVE.

BIRCH

(10)



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000300