

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
63	4394

Newton, Mass. M.R.A.
Town Newton/ Auburndale

Address 161-163 Grove St

Historic Name Harding House

(Walker Missionary Home)

Use: Present Institutional

Original private dwelling

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

DESCRIPTION

Date c.1850

Source Jackson Homestead Public.

Style Italianate

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings none

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between storied property and nearest inter

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

addition 20th century

Condition Good

Moved no Date _____

Acreage less than one acre

Setting suburban residential along

primary thoroughfare

UTM REFERENCE 19.314590.4689950

USGS QUADRANGLE Natick, Mass.

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Bruce Fernald

Organization Newton Hist. Comm.

Date 7/27/80

rev. by H. White 3/86

SEE ATTACHED MAP

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Harding House meets Criteria B because of its ties to Rev. Sewell Harding, a prominent local resident active in real estate speculation.

The Harding House meets Criterion C as an ornate, well-preserved example of a mid-19th century, L-plan Italianate dwelling.

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

The Harding House is one of Auburndales best-preserved examples of an ornate, L-plan Italianate residence. Typical of the style are the deep, bracketed eaves, porches with quadrant struts and 6/6 windows with bracketed lintels and sills. The entrance with its transom and sidelights, is located at the intersection of the wings.

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

The Harding House was constructed c.1850 for Reverend Sewell Harding, one of the many ministers active in real estate speculation during the early suburbanization of Auburndale. Harding sold the house in the mid-1860s to Thos. Williams, a Boston merchant. Harding retained ownership of the western portion of the property, and built a Mansard style mansion (facing the intersection of Grove and Hancock Streets) which was destroyed by fire in 1911.

Harding's daughter, Eliza Walker, founded the Home for Missionaries' Children, located on nearby Hancock St. In 1925 the organization (now known as the Walker Missionary Home) purchased the Harding House for use as a group residence.

Prior to its purchase by the Walker Missionary Home, the Harding House was a dormitory of the Lasell Female Seminary for several decades during the early 20th century.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Atlases: 1874, 1886, 1895, 1907.

Directories: 1868

Edith G. Field, A History of the Walker Missionary Home, 1964.

**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

51. Gunderson, Jos ., House

Entered in the *for* Keeper
National Register

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

52. Harbach, John, House

Entered in the *for* Keeper
National Register

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

53. Harding House--Walker
Missionary Home

Entered in the *for* Keeper
National Register

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

54. Haskell, Charles, House

Entered in the *for* Keeper
National Register

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

55. House at 1008 Beacon St.

Entered in the *for* Keeper
National Register

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

56. House at 102 Staniford Street

Entered in the *for* Keeper
National Register

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

57. House at 107 Waban Hill Road

Entered in the *for* Keeper
National Register

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

58. House at 115--117 Jewett
Street

Entered in the *for* Keeper
National Register

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

59. House at 15 Davis Avenue

Entered in the *for* Keeper
National Register

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

60. House at 152 Suffolk Road

Entered in the *for* Keeper
National Register

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

86001810

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Harding House--Walker Missionary Home
(Newton MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: JUL 23 1986 12/3/87
Date Due: 8/2/86 - 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	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

Missing Core Documentation

Property Name County, State	Multiple Property Name	Reference Number
Harding House—Walker Missionary Home Middlesex County, Massachusetts	Newton MRA	86001810

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

Nomination Form

Photographs

USGS Map



City of Newton Assessor's Maps. Sheet 5/
 Metric Series. 1979
 Scale: UTM grid line interval = 100 meters (328 feet)

Newton, Mass. M.R.A.
 161-63 Grove Street, Auburndale
 43-31-16