

AUG 21 1989

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

G

G156-G159

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Town WalthamName of Area (if any) North LexingtonStreet Historic DistrictPresent Use residentialGeneral Date or Period 1860-1915General Condition goodAcreage 3.17 acres: 138,322 sq. ft.Recorded by Nancy SeasholesOrganization Waltham Historical Comm.Date August, 1986

revised by C. Jenkins 3/88

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black & white). Indicate on back of each photo street addresses for buildings shown. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient).

see attached map

RESOURCE COUNT

BUILDINGS 4C 0NC

STRUCTURES 2C 0NC

TOTAL 6C 0NC

TM REFERENCE

A 19/315750 14695640
B 19/315800 14695760

SGS QUADRANGLE
SCALE

LEXINGTON
1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The North Lexington Street Historic District possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as a small but intact grouping of turn-of-the-century dwellings and outbuildings, most of which were associated with the Childs family and their dairy business. The dairy barn is an especially rare survivor. The houses, although in many cases sided, retain most of their Italianate, Mansard and Colonial Revival features. The district meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

The North Lexington Street Historic District is a small but intact grouping of four dwellings and one large dairy barn dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. All are large, commodious structures designed in a variety of architectural styles including Italianate, Mansard, and Colonial Revival. Historically, this area was considered part of Piety Corner (Area F) but because of the number of modern intrusions now separating the two areas, they are proposed as two distinct National Register districts. Lexington Street is now a busy north-south thoroughfare and the existence of a cohesive group of turn-of-the-century houses and outbuildings is very unusual.

Individual buildings are described below:

The Elias B. Armstrong House, 508 Lexington Street (1865/c1905; G156), located at the corner of Curve Street (S), is the oldest house in the district. It is a 2½ story gable-roofed structure with a symmetrical three bay facade. Three-part windows with pedimented heads are

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE. Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

Historically, the land that now comprises the North Lexington Street Historic District was considered to be part of Piety Corner, the name given to that part of Waltham in the vicinity of Lexington and Lincoln Streets. Piety Corner was one of Waltham's earliest settlement areas (Area F), and the history of the land encompassed by the district can be traced back to the 17th century. Its significance however dates to the late-19th and early 20th centuries when it was developed as an important dairy farm by members of the Childs family.

All the houses in the district are on land that was purchased in 1681 by Jonathan Sanderson, Sr., one of the earliest settlers in the Piety Corner area. When Sanderson divided his land among his heirs in the early 18th century, however, the division between the two holdings fell across what is now this district. The house at 508 Lexington Street is on land that went to Jonathan Sanderson III and was associated with the Sanderson House formerly at the corner of Lexington and Lincoln Streets (see form #150). The houses at 520, 528, and 536 Lexington Street are on land that went to John and then to Samuel Sanderson and is associated with the Sanderson House at 562 Lexington Street (see form #160).

(cont)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Sanderson, Edmund L.

1927. The Story of Piety Corner. Typescript. Waltham Public Library.

1929. Piety Corner Club and its Antecedents. History of Piety Corner. WPL.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

WALTHAM, MA MRA D. 1 of 2	
Community: Waltham, MA	Form No: G
Property Name: North Lexington Street H.D.	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd)

Neither part of the District was built on, however, until the second half of the nineteenth century. In 1865 the lot at the corner of Lincoln and what became Curve Street was acquired by Elias B Armstrong, a blacksmith who had just rented the Sanderson blacksmith shop on Lincoln Street (see 111 Lincoln Street form). The Armstrongs built the house now at 508 Lexington Street in 1865 and were joined in 1873 by the William G. Childs who built the mansard now at 528 Lexington Street. William G. Childs had started a milk business on Pond Street which he moved to this location; his sons also went into the milk business and built large Colonial Revival houses on either side of their father's: Arthur G. Childs built the house now at 520 Lexington Street in 1901 and William B. Childs constructed the house now at 536 Lexington Street sometime between 1904 and 1907.

The most important historical development associated with the North Lexington Street Historic District was the operation of the Childs milk business. The Childs were one of a number of what were known as "milkmen" -- people who supplied milk on a regular route to customers in the city. The Childs dairy was apparently fairly small under William G. Childs, but, after his death in 1902, it was greatly expanded by his sons, who built a large complex of buildings behind 528 and 536 Lexington, one of which is still standing. Childs Brothers apparently moved part of their operation to Somerville in the 1920s and went out of business in 1929.

The southern part of the North Lexington Street Historic District also has historical associations. The house at 508 Lexington Street was the residence of Thomas H. Armstrong, a Boston lawyer and the Waltham City Solicitor from 1885-1888. And the lot now 520 Lexington Street was, from 1892-1897, the location of the tennis courts of the Prospect Tennis Club. This club had been formed in the mid-1880s by a group of men from the Piety Corner area. In the course of its existence, the courts were located at several different Piety Corner residences. After the Club temporarily disbanded in 1897, the lot was sold to Arthur G. Childs and he built the house now at 520 Lexington Street.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

WALTHAM, MA MRA P. 2 of 2

Community: Waltham	Form No: G
Property Name: North Lexington Street Historic District	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Architectural Significance (cont)

located in the outer first story bays and in the central second story bay. The entry, with fan and sidelight surround and balustraded porch is a harmonious Colonial Revival style addition. Wide fascia boards and overhanging cornice are remaining Italianate style elements. All of these features remain intact despite replacement of clapboards with aluminum siding. The historic character of the property is enhanced by its granite retaining wall and gable roof barn with cupola.

The William G. Childs House, 528 Lexington Street (1873; G158) is the second oldest house in the district, and the first to be built by the Childs family. It is a $2\frac{1}{2}$ story Mansard style house with a three bay, side entry facade. It retains its original clapboard siding and slate roof. Important features include polygonal bays, pedimented dormer windows, and a verandah wrapping around the facade and north elevations. A former hip roof barn was attached as a rear ell c1902. A granite retaining wall fronts the property.

Childs Dairy Barn, 526 Lexington Street (c1910; G158) is a unique survivor of its type in Waltham. It is a large, almost entirely unaltered structure that rises $2\frac{1}{2}$ stories to a gable roof that is crowned with twin cupolas. Its five bay facade features a center entry with glazed sliding doors and an arched gable window. Original clapboard siding is retained.

The Arthur G. Childs House, 520 Lexington Street (1901; G157) is a well-preserved, and well-detailed example of the Colonial Revival style. It is a large $2\frac{1}{2}$ story structure enclosed by a hip roof with paired window dormers on each slope. The house is sheathed with clapboards and trimmed with Corinthian corner pilasters and a dentilated modillion cornice. The asymmetrical facade is dominated by a two story bow window and a Tuscan porch.

The William B. Childs House, 536 Lexington Street (1904-07; G159) is another example of the Colonial Revival style with Shingle Style overtones seen in its gambrel roof with sweeping lean-to profile. The house also features bow windows and a Tuscan verandah with pediment over the entry. Unfortunately aluminum siding has replaced original sheathing which was probably wood shingle.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Waltham, MA	Form No: G
Property Name: North Lexington Street H.D.	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

BIBLIOGRAPHY (cont'd)

Waltham News-Tribune, March 13, 1985

Warren, Nathan

1890 Waltham. In History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts. ed. by

D. Hamilton Hurd. Vol. 3. Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Co.

Middlesex Deeds

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

WALTHAM, MA MRA

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

NORTH LEXINGTON STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Assessor's #</u>	<u>Square Feet</u>	<u>Historic Name/Inventory #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Status</u>
508 Lexington St.	33-2-42	17,137	Elias B. Armstrong House/G156 barn	1865/1905	Italianate/ Colonial Rev.	C/C
520 Lexington St.	33-2-31	25,780	Arthur G. Childs House/G157	1901	Colonial Rev.	C
526 Lexington St.	33-2-29	23,430	Childs Dairy Barn/G158	c1911	Vernacular	C
528 Lexington St.	33-2-30	16,325	William G. Childs Hse./G158	1873	Mansard	C
536 Lexington St.	33-2-28	55,650	William B. Childs Hse./G159	1904-07	Colonial Rev.	C

TOTAL: 138,322 sq.ft. or 3.17 acres

RESOURCE COUNT:

Buildings	4C	ONC
Structures	2C	ONC
total	6C	ONC

6 resources

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

61. Mount Feaks Cemetery

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melores Byan 9/28/89

Attest _____

5-12 62. Mt. Prospect School for Boys

Substantive Review

for Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90

Attest _____

63. Murray, Robert, House

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melores Byan 9/28/89

Attest _____

5-12 64. Newton Street Bridge

Substantive Review

for Keeper Beth L. Savage 9/28/89

Attest _____

65. North Lexington Street Historic District

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melores Byan 9/28/89

Attest _____

66. O'Hara Waltham Dial Company

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melores Byan 9/28/89

Attest _____

67. Olcott, John E., House

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melores Byan 9/28/89

Attest _____

68. Oxford, The

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melores Byan 9/28/89

Attest _____

69. Peck, John M., House

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melores Byan 9/28/89

Attest _____

5-12 70. Piety Corner Historic District

Substantive Review

for Keeper Beth L. Savage 3/9/90

Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY North Lexington Street Historic District
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: 89001500

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

Phone _____

Signed _____

Date _____



Waltham MA, MRA
N. Lexington St. H.D. Area G
520 Lexington St. 6157



528 Lexington
WALTHAM, MA, MRA

G 158

N. Lexington St. H.D. Area 6



528 Lexington St.
WALTHAM, MA MIRA
#6158

North Lexington Street H.R.

WALTHAM, MA MRA

North Lexington Street Historic District

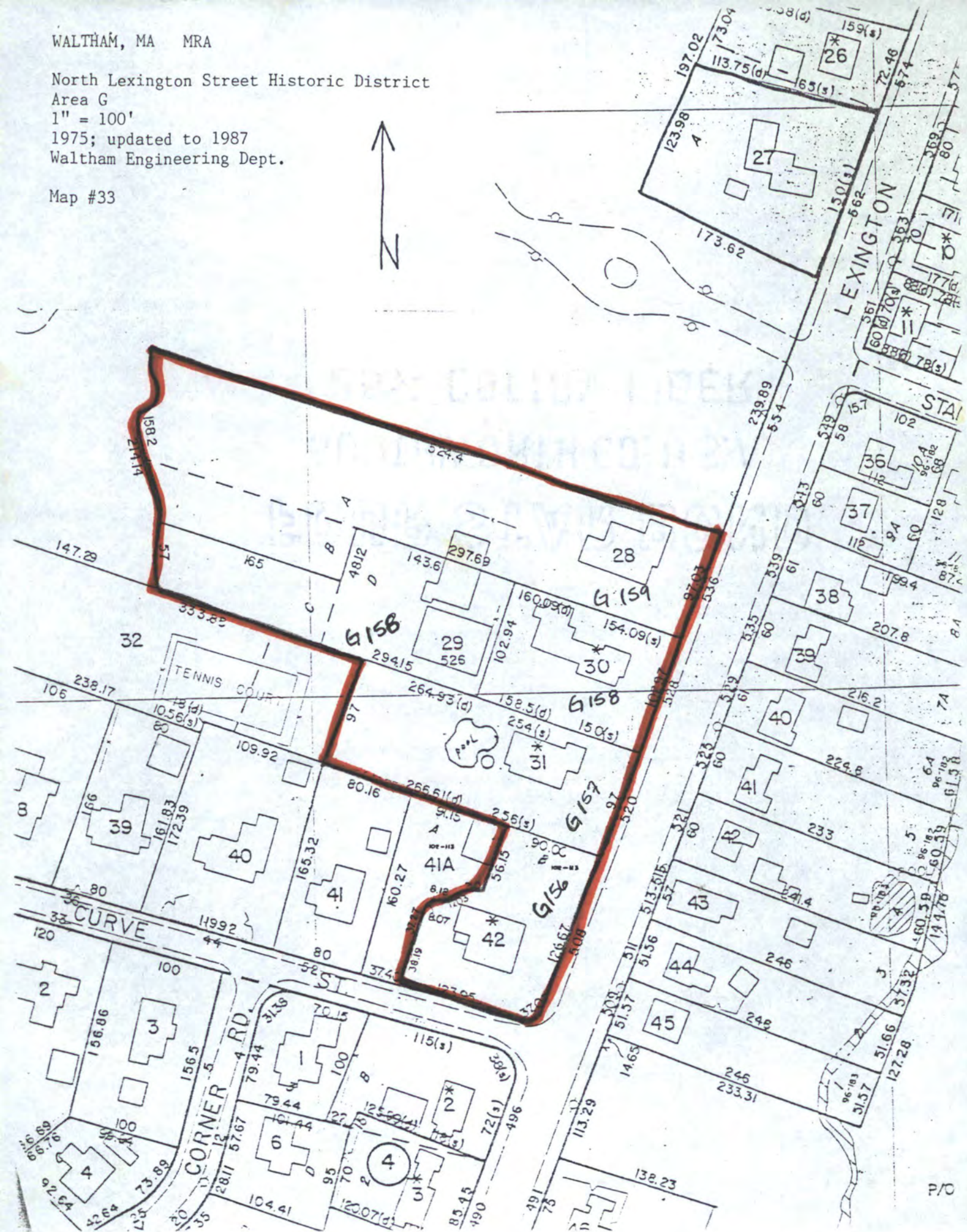
Area G

1" = 100'

1975; updated to 1987

Waltham Engineering Dept.

Map #33



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301