

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

| AREA | FORM NO. |
|------|----------|
|      | 3104     |

Town Newton, Mass. MRA  
NEWTON (West Newton)

Address 15 Davis Avenue

Historic Name \_\_\_\_\_

Use: Present Residence

Original Residence

DESCRIPTION

Date 1850s

Source Surveyor

Style Italianate

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition Good

Moved no Date ---

Acreage 10,097 sq. ft. (less than 1 acre)

Setting Corner lot in mixed residen-  
tial neighborhood

Recorded by Kathlyn Hatch

Organization Newton Historical Comm.

Date December 1977

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

(SEE ATTACHED MAP)

UTM REFERENCE 19.316720.4691030

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON, MA

SCALE 1:25,000

## **NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

As an elaborately detailed and well-preserved example of a modest Italianate residence, this house meets criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

The ornate wooden trim of this well-preserved Italianate residence is exceptionally well-detailed for a small, narrow dwelling. The main block is front-gabled and has an offset rear ell that was apparently part of the original design.

Italianate-period detailing includes paired scroll brackets at the eaves, bracketed lintels at the windows and doorway, paneled corner pilaster strips, sidelights and transom, long parlor windows, and 6/6 sash. Gothic Revival style hood mouldings, an unusual feature found in West Newton dwellings of the Italianate period, appear in the gable, second story, and rear ell.

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

Similar to 3 Davis Avenue (#3105) in design, the house was owned by Margaret Tufts, a widow, in 1868. In the late 1870s, the house was purchased by Joseph Symonds, whose family owned the residence for the remainder of the century. All the land between Waltham Street and the far end of Davis Avenue was originally owned by Seth Davis, whose own large estate (now 32 Eden Avenue, #3073) was located nearby. These two lots, at 3 and 15 Davis Avenue appear to have been among the first lots which Davis gradually sold off.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Atlases: 1874, 1886, 1895, 1907.  
City Directories: 1868

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational 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 GroupName Newton MRA  
State Middlesex County, MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

51. Gunderson, Jos ., House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melores Byers 9/4/86

52. Harbach, John, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melores Byers 9/4/8653. Harding House--Walker  
Missionary HomeEntered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melores Byers 9/4/86

54. Haskell, Charles, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melores Byers 9/4/86

55. House at 1008 Beacon St.

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melores Byers 9/4/86

56. House at 102 Staniford Street

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melores Byers 9/4/86

57. House at 107 Waban Hill Road

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melores Byers 9/4/8658. House at 115--117 Jewett  
StreetEntered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melores Byers 9/4/86

59. House at 15 Davis Avenue

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melores Byers 9/4/86

60. House at 152 Suffolk Road

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Attest

Melores Byers 9/4/86

86001817

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

House at 15 Davis Avenue (Newton MRA)  
Middlesex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fed. Reg. Date: JUL 23 1986 12/3/87  
Date Due: 8/21/86 - 9/6/86  
Action: ACCEPT 9-4-86  
\_\_\_\_ RETURN  
\_\_\_\_ REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ resubmission  
☐ nomination by person or local government  
☐ owner objection  
☐ appeal

Entered in the  
National Register

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    |                                           |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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**8. 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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title      date

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**13. Other**

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Newton, Mass. MRA

15 Davis Ave., West Newton

*House of*

Inv. #3104

Newton, Mass. MRA

