

FORM B - BUILDING

JAN 0 2 1990

39

AREA FORM NO.

|  |        |
|--|--------|
|  | NC-067 |
|--|--------|

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

NEWTON, MA MRA

Town Newton (Nonantum)

Address 340 California Street

Historic Name Mayor Edwin O. Childs 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 residential

Original same

DESCRIPTION

Date 1915

Source Building Dept. records

Style Craftsman

Architect Brainerd & Leeds

Exterior Wall Fabric stucco

Outbuildings none

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

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition good

see attached map

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage 11,061 sq.ft. C.25A

Setting located on busy street of mixed date and commercial/residential use

UTM REFERENCE 19/318580/4692410

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON

SCALE 1:25000

Recorded by Candace Jenkins/Susan Abele

Organization Newton Historical Comm.

Date 6/1987; rev. 3/1988

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

The Edwin O. Childs House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant primarily for its associations with Edwin O. Childs who resided here throughout his adult life. Childs was a much beloved and highly respected public servant and the longest serving mayor in the city until present times. The house itself is a well-designed example of the Craftsman style designed by the noted firm of Brainerd and Leeds. The Childs House meets criteria B & C of the NRHP.

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

The Edwin O. Childs House is a two story, stucco clad structure enclosed by a slate hip roof with an off-set chimney. A three bay shed wail dormer creates the second story. The symmetrical facade is centered on a classically detailed entry that is framed by narrow sidelights and protected by a flat roofed balustraded porch supported on squared piers. The entry is flanked by paired windows containing 6/6 sash. Windows in the second story dormer also contain 6/6 sash. The house is sited on a knoll, framed by large old beech trees. The original lot has been subdivided.

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

Edwin O. Childs (1876-1950) was born in Newton. He graduated from Harvard in 1899, B. U. Law School in 1901 and served as Mayor of Newton from 1914 to 1930 and from 1936 to 1939. Although a member of the old Yankee establishment, he ran on the democratic ticket, favoring liberal causes and championing the poor. He also served as a member of the Newton Board of Health, as President of the Nonantum Cooperative Bank, director of the Newton Y. M. C. A. and was a member of a number of clubs. He was a founder of the Nonantum Boy's Club, which he supported generously, and was an active member of the Eliot Church.

Childs married Mildred E. Roy of Watertown in 1908 and in 1915, Mr. and Mrs. Childs bought land in Nonantum, at the corner of Chapel and California Streets. Their house was designed by the well-known firm of Brainerd and Leeds, which was also responsible for the design of the Y.M.C.A., 276 Church Street and the Day Junior High School, 100 Walnut Street. Mayor Childs remained in Nonantum throughout his life, apparently choosing to live in that working class village rather than some more fashionable area of the city.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Building Department Records: 340 California Street  
*Beautiful Newton, Newton War Memorial, Newton Centennial*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Newton MRA  
State Middlesex County, MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- 131. Old Chestnut Hill Historic District  
(Boundary Increase) **Revised**

Keeper *SRB* *Bob J. Swage* 02-16-90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 132. Pine Ridge Road--Plainfield Street  
Historic District **Entered in the  
National Register**

Keeper *Alvina Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 133. Saco-Lowell Shupe Housing Historic  
District **Entered in the  
National Register**

Keeper *Alvina Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 134. West Newton Village Center Historic  
District **Entered in the  
National Register**

Keeper *Alvina Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 135. Windsor Road Historic District  
**Entered in the  
National Register**

Keeper *Alvina Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 136. Agudas Achim Anshei Sfard Synagogue  
**Entered in the  
National Register**

Keeper *Alvina Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 137. Boston Edison Power Station  
**Entered in the  
National Register**

Keeper *Alvina Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 138. Bruner Mayall, House **Entered in the  
National Register**

Keeper *Alvina Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 139. Childs, Mayor Edwin O., House  
**Entered in the  
National Register**

Keeper *Alvina Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 140. City Stable and Garage  
**Entered in the  
National Register**

Keeper *Alvina Byers* 2/16/90  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Childs, Mayor Edwin O., House  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Newton MRA  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 1/02/90      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/18/90  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/01/90      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/16/90  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000039

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    7/16/90 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

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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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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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Edwin O. Childs House  
340 California St.  
Newton, MA

Calentkins

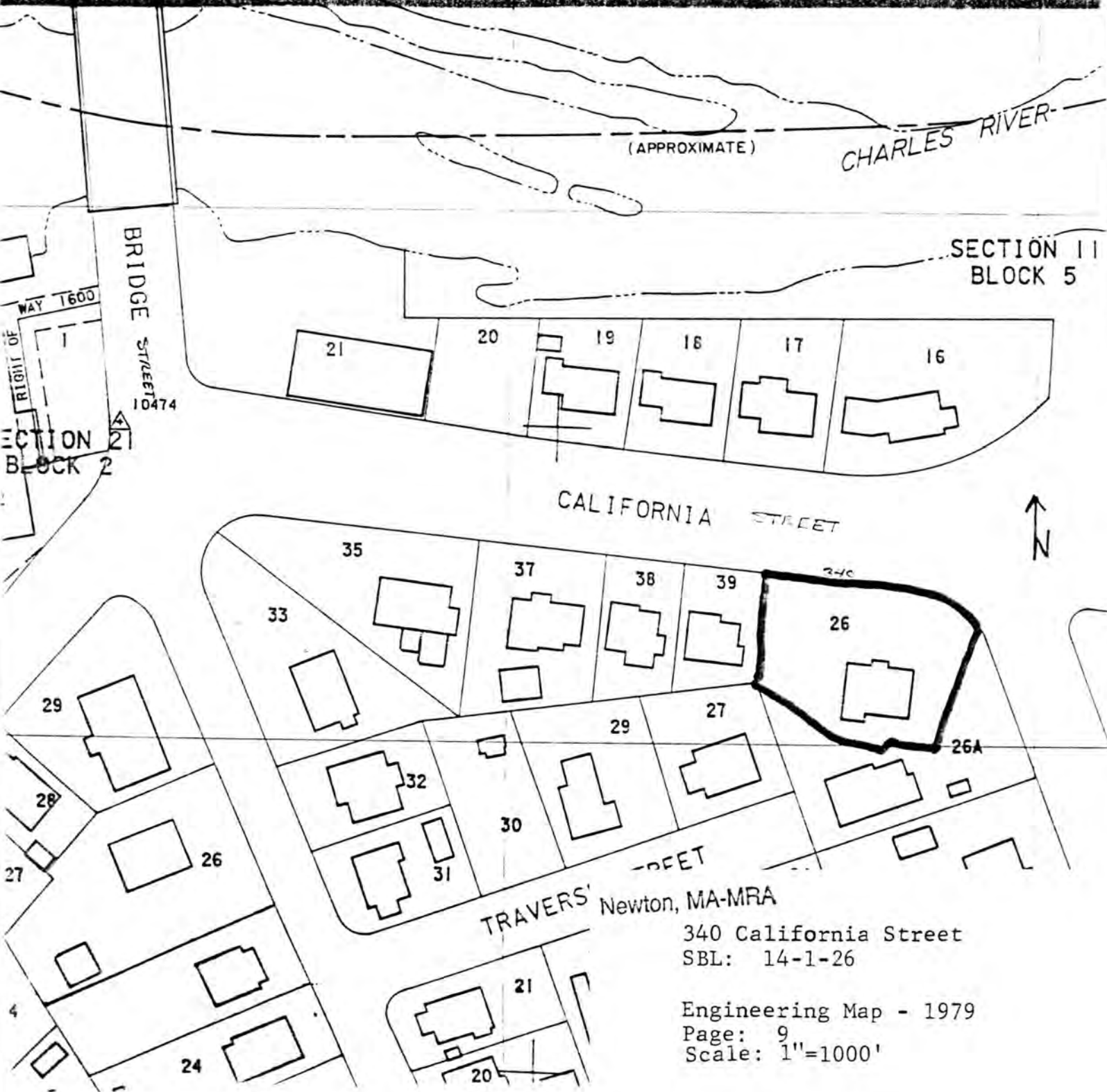
1/87

negative - Jackson Homestead

View - South

# NO-067

87/10-13



(APPROXIMATE)

CHARLES RIVER

SECTION 11  
BLOCK 5

BRIDGE STREET  
10474

SECTION 21  
BLOCK 2

CALIFORNIA STREET



TRAVERS' Newton, MA-MRA

340 California Street  
SBL: 14-1-26

Engineering Map - 1979  
Page: 9  
Scale: 1"=1000'