

AUG 21 1989

1552

AREA FORM NO.

58

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

WALTHAM, MA MRA
Waltham, Massachusetts

Town

Address 176 Main Street

Historic Name Robert M. Stark

House

Use Present private residence

Original private residence

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1890

Source deed research

Style Queen Anne

Architect George E. Strout

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboards

Outbuildings garage- NC

Major Alterations (with dates)

ca. 1950's replacement porch

Condition good

Moved no - Date - n/a

Acreage 0.24 A. 10,350 sq. ft. 62-18-

Setting Prominently sited on ample

corner lot, serves as "gate way"

house to late 19th/early 20th c.

residential area

Recorded by Edward W. Gordon

Organization Waltham Hist. Comm.

Date June, 1986

revised by C. Jenkins 3/88

Photo (3"x 3" 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

UTM REFERENCE 19/317530/4693700

USGS QUADRANGLE LEXINGTON

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Robert M. Stark House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and associations. It is a significant representative of Main Street's development (at the eastern and western ends) as a fashionable residential area in the second half of the 19th century. Its greatest significance however, lies in the quality of its Queen Anne style design, and the fact that it is the only one of several similar dwellings to be documented as a work of local architect George E. Strout. The Stark House meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

#176 Main Street is an outstanding example of Queen Anne domestic architecture. This house, with the exception of its porches, is essentially intact, retaining its clapboards, patterned shingles, and above all, its distinctive form. Particularly noteworthy is its corner, conically-capped tower, which is sheathed with sawtooth shingles and exhibits well-carved friezes composed of rosettes and curving leaf forms. The tower's third level features a loggia with turned posts and arches. The conical roof retains its shingles and copper finial. Oval windows on the east side, adjacent to the tower, are set within raised "picture-frame-like" enframements. The east wall also exhibits an octagonal bay on the first floor, which is surmounted by a bracketed overhanging oriel. The oriel is surmounted by a pedimented attic. A similarly rendered pedimented attic appears on the Main Street facade. The central portion of this house is enclosed by a hip-roof.

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

#176 Main Street provides a glimpse of the home of a well-to-do, late 19th century Waltham lawyer. It was designed by Waltham-based architect, George E. Strout, ca. 1890. Mr. Strout was active in Waltham building trades from c. late 1890's thru 1910's. George Bacon notes in Representative Businessmen of Waltham that "George E. Strout is not only an architect, but is known also a carpenter, contractor and jobber, he has had long and varied practical experience", he was not only engaged in the erection of new buildings, but was also involved in "repairing, refitting or remodeling of old ones". #176 Main Street is the only house in Waltham that has been linked directly to Strout - surely, others exist in the city, and probably include 149-149 Weston Street and 428 Lexington Street, as well as Queen Anne houses on Crescent Street, South Side, Waltham.

In 1875, #176 Main Street's lot was part of a 31 parcel subdivision along Lafayette and Willow Streets, owned by J. Rutter, Q. Farnsworth, and J.S. Williams. By 1886, this lot was part of Francis Butterick's real estate empire. Butterick had purchased this lot from John S. Williams on April 1, 1884 (Middlesex 1661:405). He sold it to Cyrus L. and Eliza Carter on August 9, 1889

(cont)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps/Atlases -1854, 1874, 1881, 1893, 1886, 1898, 1890
Waltham Directories, 1800's - 1910's
Bacon, George, Representative Businessmen of Waltham", 1893, p. 65
Middlesex Deeds - 1924:437, 1996:121
Waltham Public Library files, "Waltham Souvenir", 1905, p.43

Attorney and Counsellor

ROOM F, 621 MAIN STREET, WALTHAM.

42 and 44 Court Street, Room 24 Boston.

NOTARY PUBLIC.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

WALTHAM, MA MRA
Robert M. Stark House

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, 176 Main Street, continued

- on that same day the Carters sold it to William H. and Anne E. Johnson. The Johnson's, in turn, sold it to Robert M. Stark, on August 30, 1890. Most likely Stark built the house after acquiring the property from the Johnsons. He is listed at this address in early 1890's directories. Robert M. Stark was evidently a successful attorney - judging by the substantial size and rich surface treatments of this house. His law office was located in the Central Block, Main Street, Waltham. Mr. Stark owned this home until at least the 1910's.

Robert M. Stark began a law practice in Waltham in 1879. He was born in Waltham on June 13, 1855. He was educated in the public schools and the Chauncy Hall School of Boston. He graduated from the law department of Boston University in 1878. He gained experience in the law office of ex-attorney General Charles R. Train. Mr. Stark was elected City Solicitor in 1903. He served on the school board for one year and was the License Commissioner for two years. He was a member of the Masons and Elks. It was noted in the Waltham Souvenir of 1905 that "Mr. Stark is one of the largest individual taxpayers in the city and resides in an elegant residence on lower Main Street" (meaning 176 Main Street)!

See forms #
41, 32, 121,
150, 173

REPRESENTATIVE BUSINESS MEN OF WALTHAM. -1893 65

Geo. E. Strout,

Architect.



Office :

Room 16, Bank Building,

Waltham, - Mass.



176 MAIN ST. A

One of the most prominent capitalists in this country—a man who has been very extensively engaged in building operations for many years—is reported to have said during a recent interview: "When building, have your plans drawn up by one who is not only able to make pretty drawings, but has had some practical experience in carrying them out, and if possible, have the making of plans done by one who knows how to do the building, for in that case the architect can in no way be deceived by the builder." It is not only possible but easy for residents of Waltham and vicinity to have building plans made by one who is thoroughly conversant with the manner they should be carried out, for Mr. George E. Strout is not only an architect, but also as a carpenter, contractor and roofer, he has had long and varied practical experience, hence we need hardly to say that he is prepared to give valuable information to those who may consult him in reference to the plans for the erection of new buildings or the repairing, refitting or remodeling of old ones. His office is in the Bank Building, room 16.

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

81. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church Complex
Substantive Review
Keeper Betty L. Savage 9/28/89
Attest _____
82. Stanley, Leonard W., House
Entered in the
National Register
Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
83. Stark Building
Entered in the
National Register
Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
84. Stark, Robert M., House
Entered in the
National Register
Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
85. Stearns, Amos, House
Entered in the
National Register
Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
86. Stewart, Henry, House
Entered in the
National Register
Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
87. Swasey, James, House
Entered in the
National Register
Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
88. Tyler, Frank J., House
Entered in the
National Register
Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
89. United States Watch Company
Entered in the
National Register
Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____
90. Waltham Gas Light Company
Entered in the
National Register
Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89
Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Stark, Robert M., House
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: 89001552

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

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



Robert
Stark House

176 Main St, MHC #58
Waltham, MA. MRA



Robert

Stark House

176 Main St

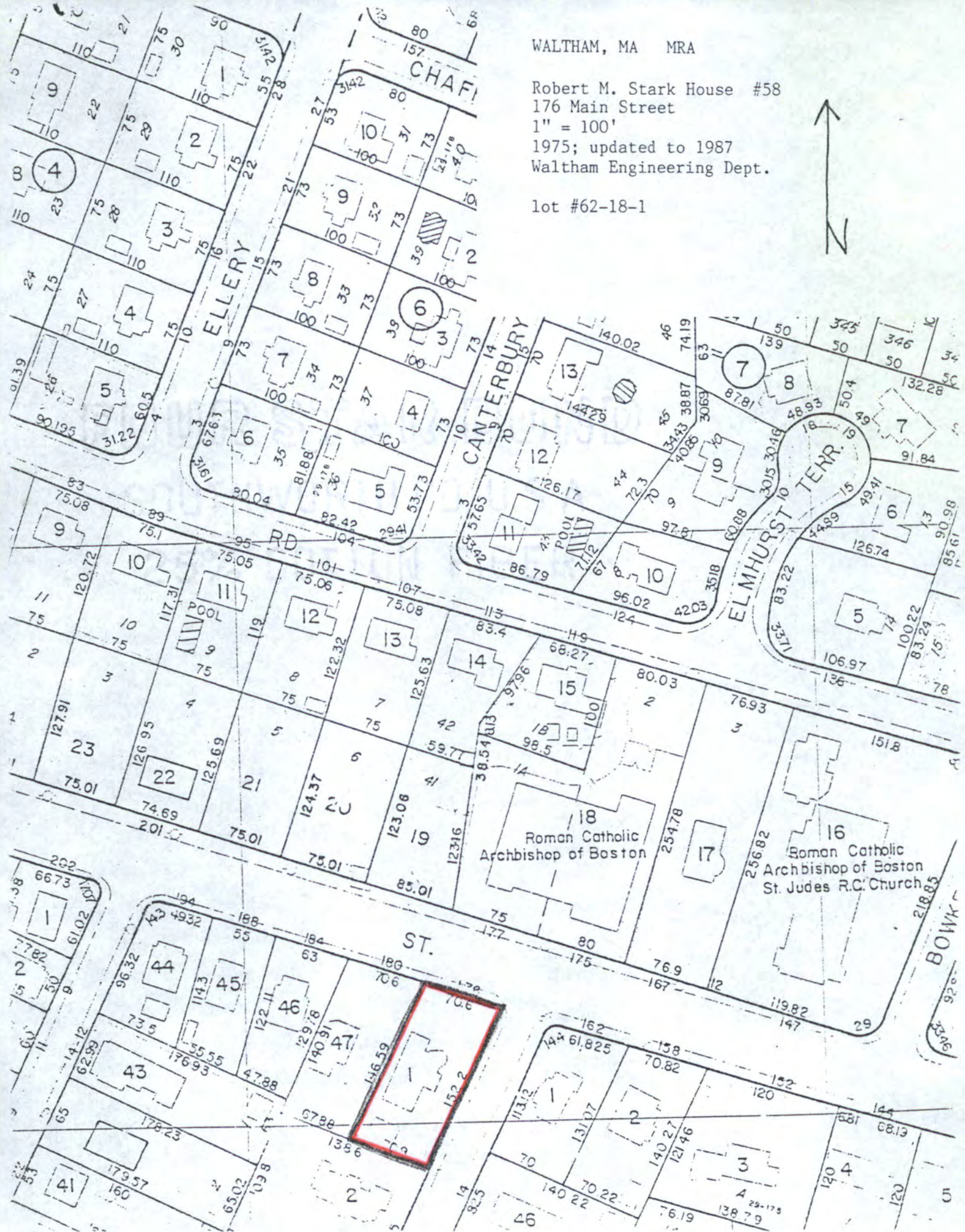
WTC #58

Waltham, MA 01901

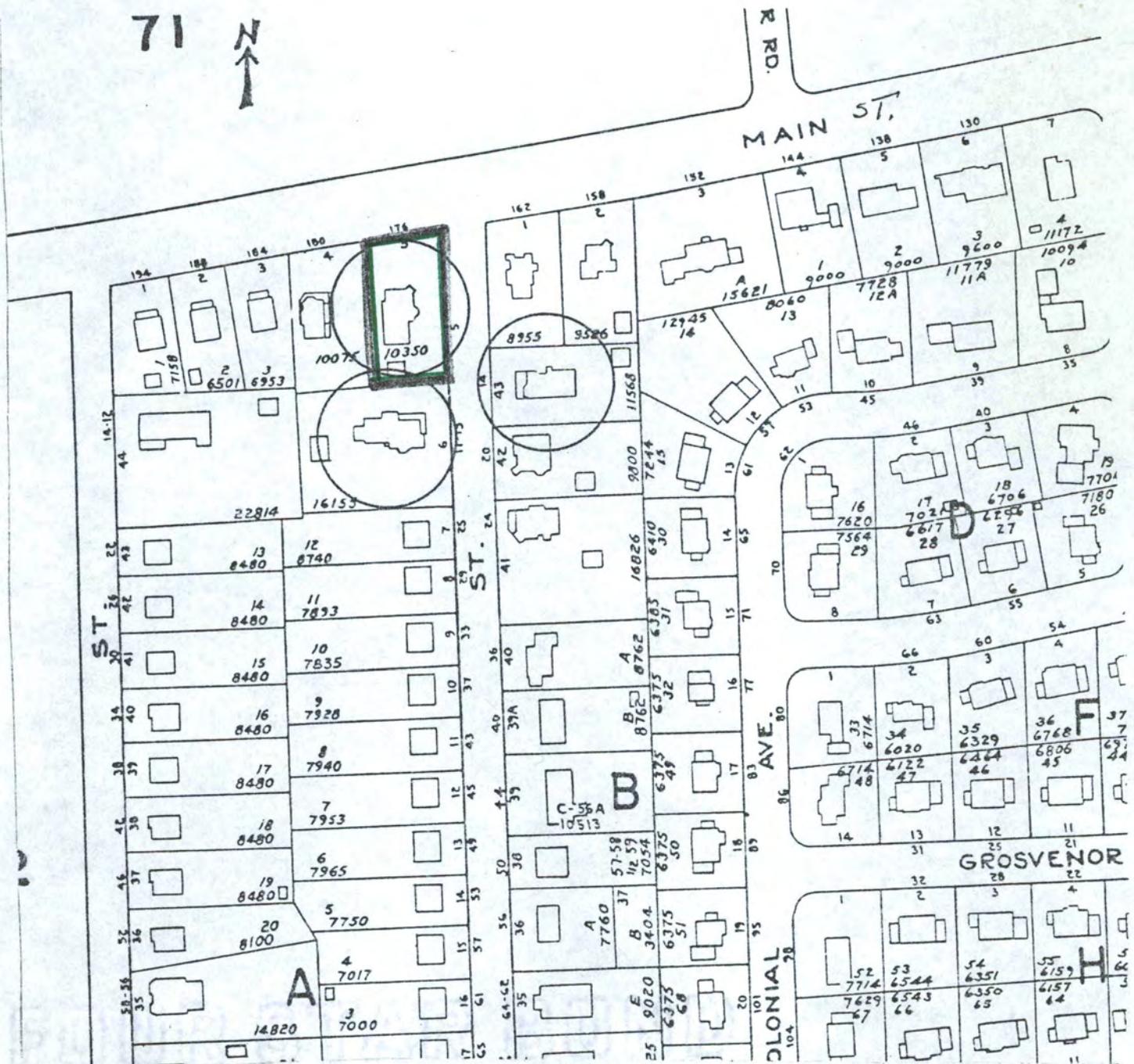
WALTHAM, MA MRA

Robert M. Stark House #58
176 Main Street
1" = 100'
1975; updated to 1987
Waltham Engineering Dept.

lot #62-18-1



71 N



1970 Atlas, City of Waltham
Compiled by the Waltham
Engineering Division
Scale: 1 inch = 140 feet

Waltham, Massachusetts MRA
176 Main Street
Robert Stark House
10-A-5 MHC #58

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301