

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AUG 21 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

AREA FORM NO.
164
WALTHAM, MA MRA

Town WalthamAddress 1079 Trapelo RoadHistoric Name Amos Stearns HouseUse: Present dwellingOriginal same

DESCRIPTION

Date 1845Source Waltham News Tribune 6/23/1973Style Greek RevivalArchitect unknownExterior Wall Fabric clapboardOutbuildings noneMajor Alterations (with dates) east porch
enclosed-early 20th centuryCondition excellentMoved no Date n/aAcreage 16,450 sq. ft. 0.38 A. 14-3-BSetting faces main thoroughfare ofTrapelo Road--surrounded by subdivision
of post-World War II housesRecorded by Ed GordonOrganization Waltham Historical Comm.Date June, 1986

revised C. Jenkins 2/88

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

UTM REFERENCE 19/315960/4697700USGS QUADRANGLE LEXINGTONSCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Amos Stearns House is one of the few surviving farmhouses along the northern corridor of Trapelo Road, long the heart of Waltham's agricultural activities. Built c1845, it is a solid and well crafted example of a traditional center entrance Greek Revival style house. It also has long-term associations with the Stearns family which owned the farmstead from 1782-1941. The house possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and associations, and 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.

The Amos Stearns House is a large 2½ story structure enclosed by a gable roof with interior chimneys rising through the roof ridge. It is sheathed with clapboards and trimmed with cornerboards with Doric capitals and an entablature with continuous dentil course. Extending across the facade and around the east elevation is a one story porch with granite posts supporting a similiar dentilated entablature; on the east the porch was glazed in the early 20th century. The symmetrical five bay facade is centered on an entry with narrow sidelights. Flanking windows exhibit apron panels. All windows contain original 6/6 sash. On the side elevations, the gable ends are pedimented. A 2½ story, four bay wing with secondary entry extends from the west.

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

The Amos Stearns House is the sole surviving structure of the multi-building Stearns Farm that once encompassed c150 acres on both sides of Trapelo Road and included barns, sheds a windmill and a slaughter house. The estate reached as far north as Lake Hardy, known as the Great Pond and later Sherman's Pond, Fiske's Pond and Mead's Pond. The family owned the property from 1782-1941.

Mary and Isaac Stearns came to Watertown in 1630 with Sir Richard Saltonstall's company. The first of their descendants to live in this area was their son Samuel who remained until his death in 1737. In the 1780s, another descendant, Jonathan bought the property on Trapelo Road just north of the Lexington Street intersection and built a house. Jonathan's son Uriah tore down much of his father's house to build a new structure on the same property. Uriah's son Amos is said to have built the present house in 1845, a date confirmed by its style. Amos lived here with his wife Sarah and children William, Lizzie, Nathaniel, and Rosa. When Amos died in 1896, his children assumed ownership of the estate until 1941. According to Rosa's son Homans S. Foster, the third floor attic was used as a dancing studio for neighborhood dances and classes in the 1880s and 1890s.

Following William Stearns' death in 1941, the homestead was sold to George Cross who installed water and electricity for the first time. Although Cross woned only 26 acres of the original estate, he used part of the land to build a diner that was torn down in the 1970s for the Waltham Savings Bank branch.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

E.L. Sanderson. Waltham 1634-1884. 1936.

Scott, Davis-The News Tribune, Thursday, June 21, 1973.

"Old Stearns home on Trapelo Road housed four generations of family"

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 ReviewKeeper Betty L. Savage 9/28/89
Attest _____82. Stanley, Leonard W., House
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelore Byen 9/28/89
Attest _____83. Stark Building
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelore Byen 9/28/89
Attest _____84. Stark, Robert M., House
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelore Byen 9/28/89
Attest _____85. Stearns, Amos, House
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelore Byen 9/28/89
Attest _____86. Stewart, Henry, House
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelore Byen 9/28/89
Attest _____87. Swasey, James, House
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelore Byen 9/28/89
Attest _____88. Tyler, Frank J., House
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelore Byen 9/28/89
Attest _____89. United States Watch Company
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelore Byen 9/28/89
Attest _____90. Waltham Gas Light Company
Entered in the
National RegisterKeeper Shelore Byen 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 Stearns, Amos, 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: 89001518

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 _____

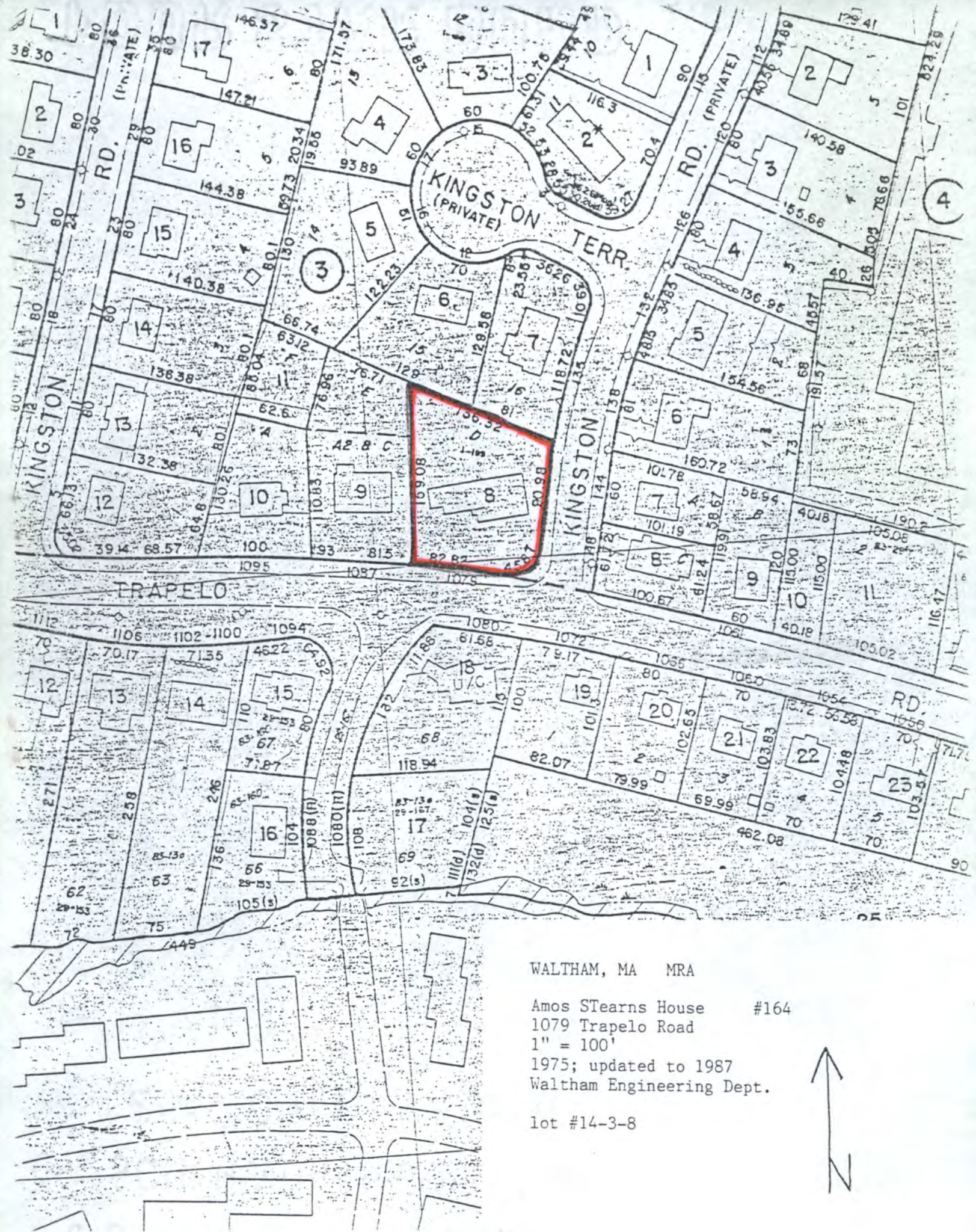
Date _____



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Stearns, ¹House
1079 Trapelo Rd.
Waltham MA 019
#164



Stearns, ^{Aug} House
1079 Trapelo Rd.
Waltham MA MRA
#164



WALTHAM, MA MRA

Amos STearns House #164

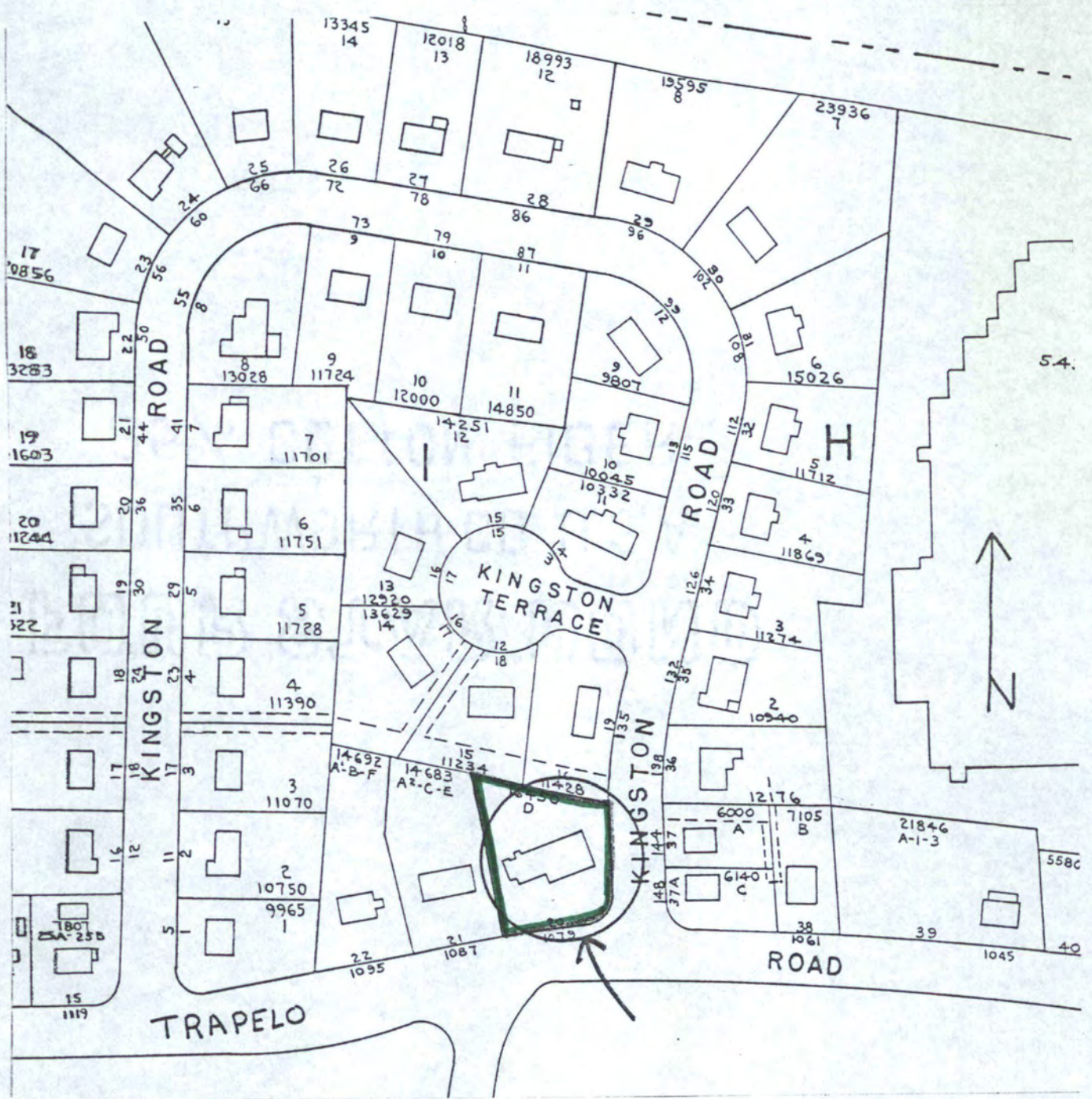
1079 Trapelo Road

1" = 100'

1975; updated to 1987

Waltham Engineering Dept.

lot #14-3-8



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

Waltham, Massachusetts MRA
 1097 Trapele Road
 Amos Stearns House
 60-I-20 MHC 164

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301