

FORM A - AREA

JAN 02 1990

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

NC-0	NC-672, NC-673 NC-82, NC-053, NC-052,
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Newton (Newton Centre)

Name of Area (if any) Gray Cliff Historic

District extension

Present Use residential

General Date or Period 1860s-1940s

General Condition excellent

Acreage 403,197 sq.ft./ c 9.25 A

Recorded by Candace Jenkins/Susan Abele

Organization Newton Historical Comm.

Date 5/1988

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

UTM REFERENCE A19/319 900 14688660
B19/319 920 14688860
C19/320 120 14688900
D19/320 170 14688730

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON

SCALE 1:25000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Gray Cliff Historic District extension possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as an area whose topography and architecture are of unusual interest, and which continues the high standards set by the original area. It also represents the 20th century development of the city as large estates were subdivided to accommodate the rapidly growing population. It thus meets criteria A and C of the NRHP.

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

The Gray Cliff Historic District extension is a residential neighborhood which abuts the existing district (NR: 9-4-86) to the east. Known as The Ledges, it continues the striking topography of steep rocky ledge and craggy outcroppings which characterize the original area. It also maintains the high architectural standards established in Gray Cliff, although in this case the ten houses date from the first half of the 20th century rather than the later 19th century. Styles represented in the area include Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Renaissance Revival and Craftsman.

Individual houses in the Gray Cliff Historic District extension are described on the continuation sheet:

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

In the early 1860s Robert Bishop established large estate fronting on Beacon Street and lying roughly within the area bounded by what is now Grant Avenue, Commonwealth Avenue, and Hobart Road. It was situated high above Beacon Street, on a site which featured rocky ledges and craggy outcroppings. Bishop, a Judge and President of the Massachusetts Senate was also particularly active in Newton affairs. As a city water commissioner, he was instrumental in the establishment of a city water system in the late 1870s and as a member of the Newton Boulevard Syndicate influenced the layout of Commonwealth Avenue. He was also particularly interested in the Newton Centre Improvement Association and was a major force in the establishment of the Newton Centre Playground which was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted.

(see continuation sheet)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newton (Newton Corner)	Form No: NC-0
Property Name: Gray Cliff H.D. extension	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

The **Edward P. Bosson House, 9 The Ledges Road** (1915) occupies a craggy site at the end of The Ledges Road. It is a 2 1/2 story brick house laid up in Flemish bond and enclosed by a slate gable roof with modillion cornice. The symmetrical facade is centered on an entry with sidelights and a flat roof porch with iron balustrade. Glazed doors of the same width as the entry are located above. Flanking the entry are bay windows with two single windows above. Wings extend from both sides and a glazed porch is located on the rear elevation.

The **Second James Ritchie House, 10 The Ledges Road** (1928) is a Tudor Revival structure perched on a lofty and craggy site. It is a two story gable roof house whose first story is clad in brick that is sometimes laid in a herringbone pattern and sometimes half-timbered. The upper story is stuccoed and includes numerous cross gables. One cross gable on the rear elevation has a large bank of windows. A garage is incorporated beneath the house as is common with houses on hilly lots.

The **Robert R. Bishop House, 40 The Ledges Road** (1861; c1890s) City records indicate that this is by far the oldest house in the district and that it was approached from Beacon Street prior to the existence of The Ledges Road. The original construction date of 1861 along with a symmetrical three bay form indicate that the house may have been designed in the Italianate style. A thorough turn-of-the-century remodeling however has resulted in today's Colonial Revival style appearance characterized by an entry with fan and sidelights as well as a Tuscan porch.

Maud V. Gray House, 45 The Ledges Road (1907): This eclectically designed house is one of the most imposing in the district. It is a large 2 1/2 story structure enclosed by an overhanging red tile hip roof derived from the Spanish Colonial Revival style. The asymmetrical stucco facade reflects the Craftsman style, while the bold entry enframingent with its broken scroll pediment borrows from Colonial and Renaissance sources.

91 Bishopsgate Road (1901) Defining the northern edge of the district is a large stuccoed, Colonial Revival style residence designed by Henry J. Carlson, partner in the noted Boston firm of Coolidge and Carlson. It rises 2 1/2 stories to a gambrel, red-tile roof with gabled dormers and massive bridged chimneys. The symmetrical three-bay facade is centered on a pedimented entry porch: a sunporch extends to the west.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newton (Newton Corner)	Form No: NC-0
Property Name: Gray Cliff H.D. Extension	

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

Architectural Significance (cont.)

121 Bishopsgate Road (1911) This highly unusual Craftman/Tudor Revival style hybrid is a 2 1/2 story stuccoed structure enclosed by a slate gable roof. Its symmetrical three bay facade is centered on a gabled pavilion which establishes a stylized chevron motif as the major decorative theme. The applied wood patterning seen here is repeated at the corners of the house, in the upper sash of the windows, and in the sidelights and glazed door of the entry.

Verbal Boundary Description & Justification: The Gray Cliff Historic District extension abuts the existing district to the east; the two areas are connected by the short wooded span of Squirrel Lane. Boundaries for the extension are the lot lines of the ten houses and two vacant lots on Bishopsgate Road and The Ledges Road as shown on the attached Engineering Map. The boundaries recognize the unique topographical features and high architectural quality of the area. The east and west boundaries are defined by the dead end of The Ledges Road and the edge of the existing district respectively. The northern and southern boundaries are drawn to exclude properties of more recent date and lesser architectural interest on Bishopsgate Road and Beacon Street. Excluded areas are also at a lower elevation.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

Opening of the Circuit Railroad in 1886, construction of Commonwealth Avenue in 1895, and the extension of street railway service along Commonwealth Avenue stimulated development throughout the area. Initial development in the Gray Cliff Historic District (NR: 9-4-86) off Beacon Street during the 1880s and in the Montvale Road area off Commonwealth Avenue (NC-B) in the 1890s took full advantage of the varied topography with curving road and unusual homesites. The Ledges Road, which was laid out between 1906 and 1912, subdivided the area adjacent to Gray Cliff Road on the Beacon Street side leaving the Bishop House with approximately a two acre lot at 40 The Ledges Road. Here too, the unusual topography adds interest, and in the case of the Ritchie House, a dramatic setting for a residential property.

The work of several popular local early 20th century architects is found in this area. Henry J. Carlson, of the firm Coolidge and Carlson designed his own residence at 91 Bishopsgate Road (1901) and also the house at 131 Bishopsgate Road(1913). Architect

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEETMASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Historical Significance (cont.)

Edward B. Stratton, who lived at 25 Kenmore Road (NC-047) designed the house at 9 The Ledges Road for Edward P. Bosson in 1915. Bosson, a Boston businessman headed the firm of Bosson & Lane, manufacturers of chemical products for the textile trade. He also served as a member of the Newton Board of alderman for four years and as a director of the Newton Trust and a trustee of the Newton Centre Savings. The work of Stratton and Coolidge and Carlson can also be found in the Commonwealth Avenue Historic District (NC-B) among others.

Architect James Ritchie was born in Scotland and opened his office in Boston in 1909 where he practiced for more than fifty years. In 1912-13 he built a home for himself at 34 Hancock Avenue, Newton Centre, and in 1928, a second house at 10 The Ledges Road. Ritchie's earliest known work in Newton is the Union Church (1912) in Waban. Other works include the Newton Centre Branch Library (1927; NC-040), the Ward School (1928) and several buildings in the West Newton Village Historic District (WN-J) to name a few.

BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES

Building Department Records: The Ledges Road, Bishopsgate Road
VF- Jackson Homestead, Boston Public Library - Fine Arts Architects File
*Newton's Nineteenth Century Architecture: Newton Centre, Oak Hill, Chestnut Hill,
Commonwealth Avenue*

Newton, MA-MRA

NEWTON, MASS. - MRA : PHOTOGRAPH FROM BEAUTIFUL NEWTON, NEWTON
GRAPHIC PUBLISHING CO., NEWTON, MASS., n.d.



RESIDENCE OF EDWARD P. BOSSON, LEDGES ROAD, NEWTON CENTRE

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: <i>Newton</i>	Form No: <i>NC-0</i>
Property Name:	

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

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

NEWTON, MASS. MULTIPLE RESOURCE AMENDMENT - 1988 - GRAY CLIFF HISTORIC DISTRICT
extension

<u>Street Address</u>	<u>SBI</u>	<u>Area(sf)</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Form #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Status</u>
	61-21-13	23589	Vacant Lot				
	61-21-2	26043	Vacant Lot				
91 Bishopsgate Rd.	61-22-17	45570	house garage	NC-82	1901	CR	
121 Bishopsgate Rd.	61-23-3	15037	house garage		1911	Tudor	
131 Bishopsgate Rd.	61-23-9	18450	house w/alt garage		1913	CR	
9 The Ledges Road	61-21-22	43270	Edward P. Besson House garage	NC-053	1915	CR	
10 The Ledges Road	61-21-1	15021	2nd James Ritchie Hse.		1928	Tudor	
27 The Ledges Road	61-21-21	16000	house w/alt garage		1941	Eclectic	
30 The Ledges Road	61-21-3	55075	house w/alt garage	NC-052	1947	International	
33 The Ledges Road	61-21-20	18890	house		1910	Crafts.	
40 The Ledges Road	61-21-4	61300	Robert Bishop House out building	NC-672	c1861	CR	
45 The Ledges Road	61-21-19	44952	house garage	NC-673	1907	Renaissance Rev.	

Number of buildings

10

Number of contributing buildings

8

Number of non-contributing buildings

2

Sum of square feet in field "area"
(Streets not included)

403197
29.25A

Number of structures

5

Number of contributing structures

3

Number of non-contributing structures

2

Number of vacant lots

2

Number of contributing objects

0

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National 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 Group

Name Newton MRA
State Middlesex County, MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

121. Whittemore's Tavern--
Bourne House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melanie Byers 9/4/86

Attest

122. Working Boys Home

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melanie Byers 9/4/86

Attest

123. Brae-Burn Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melanie Byers 2/16/90

Attest

124. Commonwealth Avenue Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melanie Byers 2/16/90

Attest

125. Day Estate Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melanie Byers 2/16/90

Attest

126. Gray Cliff Historic District
(Boundary Increase)

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melanie Byers 2/16/90

Attest

127. Monadnock Raad Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melanie Byers 2/16/90

Attest

128. Morton Road Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melanie Byers 2/16/90

Attest

* 129. Newton Highlands Historic District
(Boundary Increase)

for Keeper

Bobby L. Savage 02/16/90

Attest

* 130. Newtonville Historic District
(Boundary Increase)

~~Entered in the National Register~~

for Keeper

Bobby L. Savage 2/16/90

Attest

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ~~NOMINATION~~ B.I.

PROPERTY NAME: Gray Cliff Historic District (Boundary Increase)

MULTIPLE NAME: Newton MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

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

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000011

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 2/16/90 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

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 _____



Gray Cliffs Expanded H.D

Newton, MA-MRA

10 The Ledges
Newton, MA

C. Jenkins

4/87

neg. @ Jackson Homesleaf

new - north

NC - 051

87/8 - 34



Newton, MA-MRA

Gray Cliff Expanded H.D.

45 The Ledges
Newton, MA

C. Jenkins

4/87

req. @ Jackson Homestead

87/9-0



Gray Cliff Expanded H.D.

Newton, MA-MRA

9 The Ledges
Newton, MA

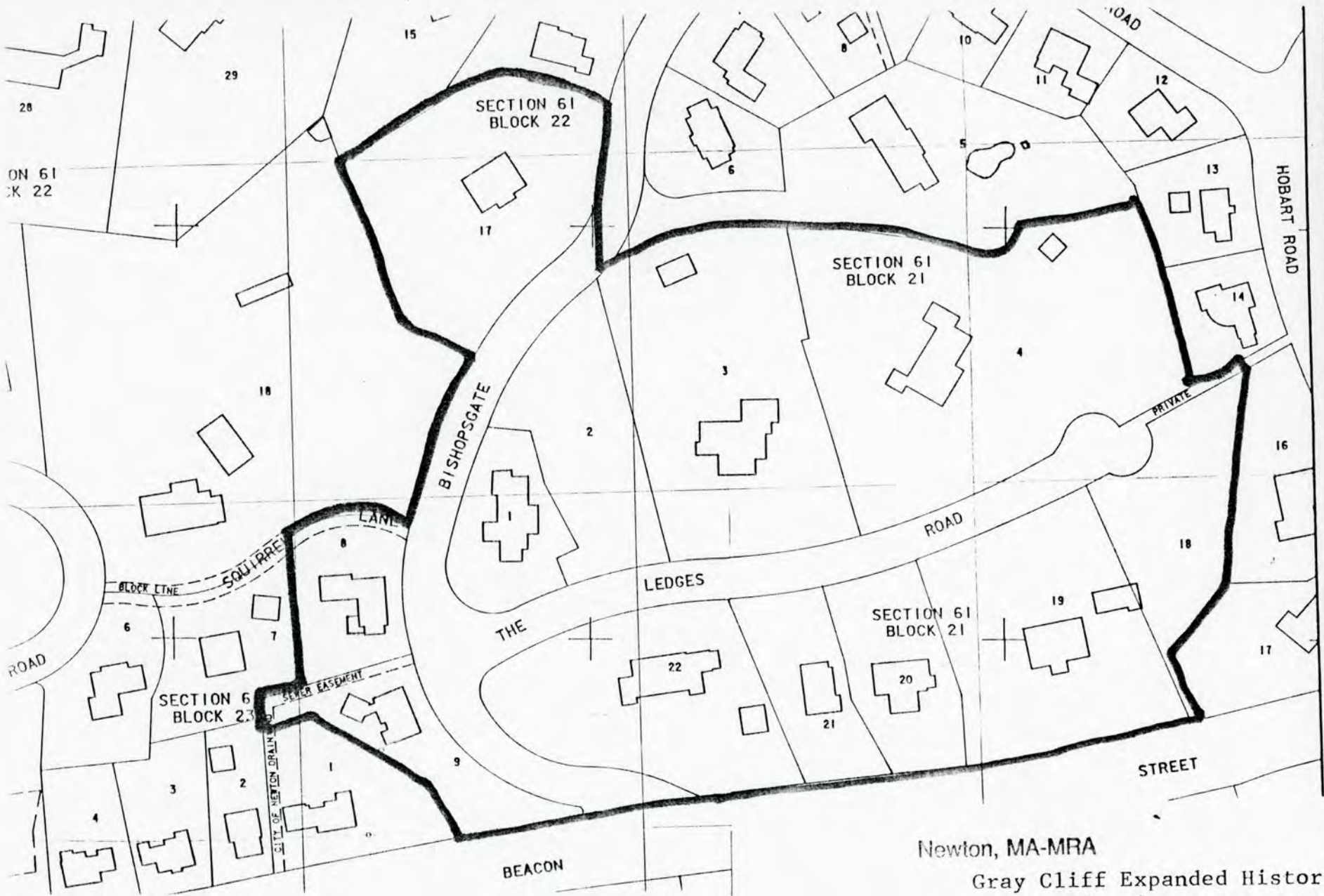
C. Jenkins

4/87

neg. @ Jackson-Homeslead
New - South

NC-053

87/8-36



Newton, MA-MRA

Gray Cliff Expanded Historic District

Engineering Map - 1979

Scale: 1"=1000"

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