

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
	3201

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 80 BOYLSTON STREET
 BOSTON, MA 02116

Newton, Mass. MRA

Town NEWTON (West Newton)

Address 121 Adena Road

Historic Name Henry Gane House

Use: Present Residence

Original Residence

DESCRIPTION

Date 1860s

Source Surveyor

Style Mansard

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric Flush boarding

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

Dormers, entrance (late 19th cent.)

Condition Good

Moved yes Date c.1914

Acreage 7,404 sq. ft. (less than 1 acre)

Setting Early 20th-century residential neighborhood

Recorded by Kathlyn Hatch, Peter Stott

Organization Newton Historical Comm.

Date January 1978, April 1986

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 19.316730.4691420

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON, MA

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

As one of Newton's most elaborate Mansard-style residences, the Henry A. Gane 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.

One of Newton's most elaborate Mansard-style residences, this former mansion is distinguished by the quality of its elaborate trim. The building has a planar facade, characteristic of symmetrical designs favored in the Mansard period, and the paired side bay windows that were a common feature of houses built in West Newton during the 1860s.

The ornate porch comprises the most distinctive feature in the building's design. The posts are clustered, tied together visually with valence boards at the eaves and classical, vase-turned balusters. The window detailing is also unusually elaborate and consists of a molded surround with curved labels, flared jambs, and feet at the sills.

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

This residence, once surrounded by 16 acres of landscaped grounds and greenhouses, was constructed for Henry Gane in the 1860s at a location a few hundred feet from this site, at the southwest corner of Waltham and Derby streets. Henry A. Gane (1811-1897) was a well-known West Newton resident and a successful Boston merchant. Born in England, he came to the U.S. as a young man and started in the book binding trade, which he developed into a large business. Later he went into the mercantile line of book binders' supplies in a wholesale way. On his retirement about twenty years before his death, he turned to the cultivation of flowers. His greenhouses were well known, "being always open to the public in chrysanthemum season." His obituary continued: "Mr. Gane made his name somewhat famous both here and abroad among chrysanthemum growers for his many seedlings which have taken prizes and which are recognized as among the choicest varieties by florists."

After Gane's death in 1897, the land was subdivided. The house and two acres was bought by Alice M. Watkins, and much of the rest of the land was taken up by S. Edward Howard (1840-1912), instrumental in building the Northgate Club and laying out Northgate Park. Henry Gane's house was moved to the corner of Northgate Park and Adena Road when the intersection was developed for house lots during World War I.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

"Henry A. Gane," Newton Journal 13 August 1897, p. 5.
Atlases: 1874, 1886, 1895, 1907, 1917.
City Directories: 1868, 1899, 1903, 1907, 1913, 1915.
Bird's Eye View of West Newton (1890)

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

4

Name Newton MRA
State Middlesex County, MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

41. Dupee Estate

Entered in the
National Register for Keeper

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

42. Elliott, Charles D., House

Entered in the
National Register for Keeper

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

43. Eminence, The

Entered in the
National Register for Keeper

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

44. Estabrook, Rufus, House

Entered in the
National Register for Keeper

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

45. Evangelical Baptist
Church

Entered in the
National Register for Keeper

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

46. Farquhar, Samuel, House

Entered in the
National Register for Keeper

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

47. Fenno, John A., House

Entered in the
National Register for Keeper

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

48. First Unitarian Church

Entered in the
National Register for Keeper

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

49. Fuller, Capt. Edward,
Farm

Entered in the
National Register for Keeper

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

50. Gane, Henry, House

Entered in the
National Register for Keeper

Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Gane, Henry, House (Newton MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

JUL 23 1986

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87

Date Due: 8/21/86 - 9/6/86

Action: ACCEPT 9-4-86

_____ RETURN _____

_____ REJECT _____

Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

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

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

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

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 _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Newton, Mass. MRA
121 Adena Road, West Newton
(Henry Gane House)
Inv. #3201

Newton, Mass, MRA



City of Newton Assessor's Maps. Sheet 15
 Metric Series. 1979
 Scale: UTM grid line interval = 100 meters (328 feet)

Newton, Mass. MRA
 121 Adena Road, West Newton
 (Henry Gane House)
 34-28-5