

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
148	NC-120

Town Newton, Mass. M.R.A.  
Newton ( Newton Centre )

Address 983 Centre Street

Historic Name Jos. Gunderson 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 dwelling

Original dwelling

DESCRIPTION

Date c.1850

Source Water Records

Style Greek Revival, Regency

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard, flush-board

Outbuildings garage

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) \_\_\_\_\_

1-story rear ell

Condition excellent

(SEE ATTACHED MAP)

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Acreage less than one acre 25,000 sq. ft.

Setting ample set back, suburban residential along main thoroughfare

UTM REFERENCE 19.319250.4689460

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON, MASS.

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Archit. Pres. Assoc.

Organization Newton Hist. Comm.

Date 5/1/ 83, rev. 3/86 by H. White

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

983 Centre St meets Criterion C as a rare example of the broad-pilastered, Regency inspired variation of the Greek Revival style. Few examples were ever built outside of Boston (although some exist near Portland, Maine).

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

983 Centre St is a design of great academic clarity. Recessed panels alternate with projecting sections of wall that read as very wide pilasters lacking capitals. The original cube-like mass of the house was modified by the addition of an entrance porch. This idiom of the Greek Revival style was inspired by earlier Regency architecture in England, and was primarily an urban form. The use of lavish cast iron balconies is in keeping with the Regency mode.

A second example of this type in Newton is 488 Centre St (c.1846) in the Farlow & Kenrick Parks N.R.H.D.-listed 7/8/82.

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

Centre St was part of the early road leading from Watertown to Dedham, from the 1630s. During the 19th c. droves of cattle were herded down Centre St on their way to the Brighton markets.

The land on which the house stands was part of the Rev. Jonathan Homer farm.

Jos. Gunderson built this house, one of the first suburban dwellings in Newton Centre, at the time when the railroad connection from Brookline to the south side of Newton was completed.

Gunderson, of Boston married Susan Capen in 1841. City Engineering Dept records suggest that this house was built in 1850. Gunderson was listed as a cashier in city directories, and was active in the Baptist Church.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Atlases 1907-Abbie Y. Burr, 1895-F.W. Harbach, 1886-J.G. Gunderson, 1874-Gunderson.

Directories: 1868-J.G. Gunderson  
1895-renters Mathews, MR & Mrs H. Slate, Boston  
Putnam, J.H., shoe mfr.

Smith, S.F. History of Newton, Boston, 1880, p.502.  
Newton Vital Records to 1850, Boston, 1905.

**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

51. Gunderson, Jos ., House

Entered in the *for* Keeper  
National Register

*Delores Byers* 9/4/86

Attest

52. Harbach, John, House

Entered in the *for* Keeper  
National Register

*Delores Byers* 9/4/86

Attest

53. Harding House--Walker  
Missionary Home

Entered in the *for* Keeper  
National Register

*Delores Byers* 9/4/86

Attest

54. Haskell, Charles, House

Entered in the *for* Keeper  
National Register

*Delores Byers* 9/4/86

Attest

55. House at 1008 Beacon St.

Entered in the *for* Keeper  
National Register

*Delores Byers* 9/4/86

Attest

56. House at 102 Staniford Street

Entered in the *for* Keeper  
National Register

*Delores Byers* 9/4/86

Attest

57. House at 107 Waban Hill Road

Entered in the *for* Keeper  
National Register

*Delores Byers* 9/4/86

Attest

58. House at 115--117 Jewett  
Street

Entered in the *for* Keeper  
National Register

*Delores Byers* 9/4/86

Attest

59. House at 15 Davis Avenue

Entered in the *for* Keeper  
National Register

*Delores Byers* 9/4/86

Attest

60. House at 152 Suffolk Road

Entered in the *for* Keeper  
National Register

*Delores Byers* 9/4/86

Attest

86001808

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Gunderson, Jos., House (Newton MRA)  
Middlesex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. JUL 23 1986

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87

Date Due: 8/21/86 - 9/16/86

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

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**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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

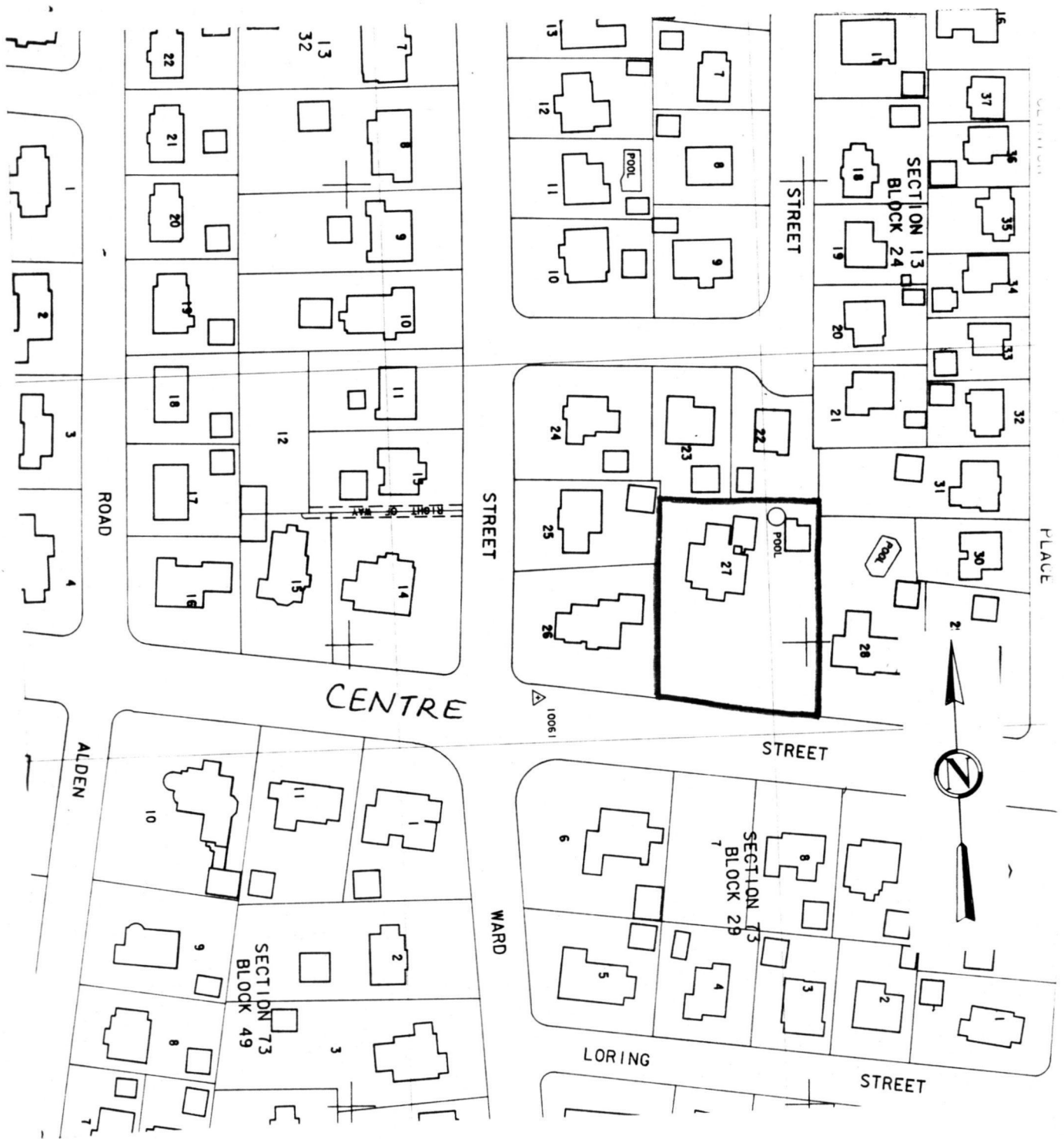
Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Gunderson, Jos., Huse

Newton, Mass. MRA

- 983 Centre St, Newton Centre -  
K-6 (21)



City of Newton Assessor's Maps. Sheet 74  
 Metric Series. 1979  
 Scale: UTM grid line interval = 100 meters (328 feet)

Newton, Mass. M.R.A.  
 983 Centre Street, Newton Centre  
 Joseph Gunderson House  
 13-24-27