

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
	3698

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 80 BOYLSTON STREET
 BOSTON, MA 02116

Newton, Mass. MRA
 Town NEWTON (West Newton)

Address 102 Highland Street

Historic Name Galen Merriam House

Use: Present Residence

Original Residence

DESCRIPTION

Date 1840s

Source Jackson Homestead Pub.

Style Italianate

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboards

Outbuildings Barn

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition Good

Moved no Date ---

Acreage 39,077 sq. ft. (less than 1 acre)

Setting Hillside location overlooking
 West Newton village

Recorded by Kathlyn Hatch, Peter Stott

Organization Newton Historical Comm.

Date March 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 19.316650.4690360

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON, MA

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

As an elaborately detailed and well-preserved example of a large Italianate mansion on West Newton Hill, the Galen Merriam 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.

This large hillside estate remains a very well-preserved example of the early Italianate style residences that were built on West Newton Hill. The house was originally oriented to the north, facing the village center. The long side of the building appears on this elevation and features a center gable, entrance with transom and sidelights, and three-bay facade with a round window in the gable. The side of the house and an attached rear wing face Highland Street.

The building's detailing, primarily from Italianate motifs, includes eaves brackets and a long, bracketed veranda that appears on three sides of the house. The peaked windows at the gable level are a notable element of its trim; this motif is associated with contemporary Gothic Revival style design.

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

This house, erected in the late 1840s, was apparently built for Galen Merriam, a Boston coal merchant, whose business was located on Harrison Avenue, near South Cove. Merriam owned much of the land on both sides of Highland Street, and after his move to Nahant about 1877, large parts of the estate were sold for development. The house and the remaining property were acquired by George A. Frost, one of the principals of the Boston firm of George Frost & Co., a manufacturer of ladies underwear.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Friends of the Jackson Homestead, Newton's Older Houses: West Newton (1978), pp. 38-39.

**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

Entered in the
National Register

Date/Signature

81. Hyde, Gershom, House

for Keeper Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

82. Jackson House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

83. Jackson, Samuel, Jr.,
House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

84. Jennison, Joshua, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

85. Judkins, Amos, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

86. King House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

87. Kingsbury House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

88. Kistler House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

89. Merriam, Galen, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

90. Mount Pleasant

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 9/4/86

Attest

86001850

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Merriam, Galen, House (Newton MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: JUL 23 1986 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 Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

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	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

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: _____



102 Highland St., West Newton

Neg. 78-B-2/18

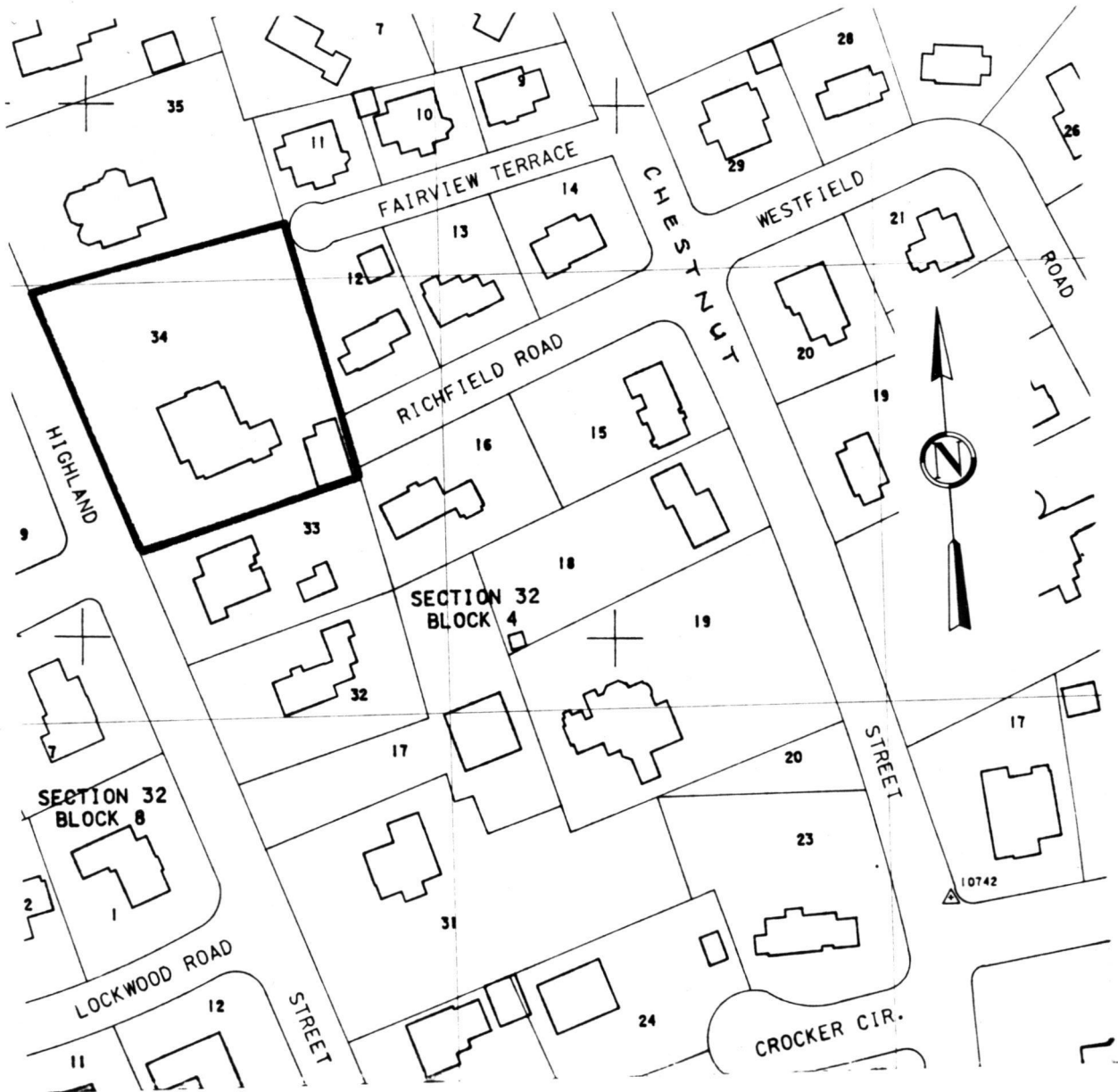
Newton, Mass. MRA

102 Highland St., West Newton
(Galen Merriam House)

Inv. #3698

Newton, Mass. MRA





City of Newton Assessor's Maps. Sheet 42
 Metric Series. 1979
 Scale: UTM grid line interval = 100 meters (328 feet)

Newton, Mass. MRA
 102 Highland St., West Newton
 (Galen Merriam House)
 32-4-34