

MAY 23 1989

667

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
A	9

Town Wakefield

Address 142 Main Street

Historic Name Beebe Homestead

Use: Present dwelling

Original dwelling

DESCRIPTION

Date 1798 or 1818

Source Eaton, 1874 and Wakefield

Historical Society

Style Federal

Architect NA

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings garage

noncontributing (c.1940)

Major Alterations (with dates) west porch  
(undated); cupola c. 1858-65;  
ell c. 1858

Condition Excellent

Moved NA Date NA

Acreage 1 1/2 acres

Setting On hill set back from Main  
Street on long drive, overlooks lake

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 19/329590/4709050

USGS QUADRANGLE Reading, MA

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Wakefield Preservation Associates

Organization Wakefield Historical Commission

Date March, 1985

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

The Beebe Homestead, one of the most high style Federal buildings in Wakefield, was the home of Lucius Beebe, a prominent town resident in the mid 18th century. The building retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and meets criterion A and C of the NRHP on the local level.

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

This house was built c. 1798-1818, but it may contain the framing from the c. 1727 house original to the site. If so, it would appear to have been entirely rebuilt. It is one of the most imposing, and high style Federal dwellings in town. Though somewhat smaller and simpler than the Salem mansion houses it is modeled on, it is nevertheless a landmark on its high lakeside site. The 2 story hip roofed structure with two tall interior chimneys has a deck balustrade and octagonal cupola, probably added c. 1885-65. Giant pilasters on tall styles frame one of the two three bay center entrance facades. The south entrance is sheltered by a portico, possibly added, and features a leaded glass fanlight. The rear ell was added c. 1852-65. The porch on the west appears to be an addition as well, though it could be original.

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

On this site stood the homestead of Deacon Benjamin Brown and his son General Benjamin Brown, which was built about 1727. The General earned his rank in the Revolutionary War, and was a member of the Provincial Congress. Thomas Clement, a retired naval commander probably erected this house, but it is most closely identified with Lucius Beebe, who lived here from 1852 to his death in 1884. The Beebe Town Library is named in his honor, and he was a liberal donor to the institution. He was a selectman, member of the School Board, on the board of two banks and a real estate association, and for 34 years was a Justice of the Peace. He also served a term in the State Legislature, and was active in town affairs, such as the Fire Department. He owned and ran with his sons a cotton business and a leather business, both from Boston, suffering losses in both from fires. The large ell to the rear was added to accommodate his family of twelve, their two cooks, and other servants.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Eaton, Lilley, Geneological History of the Town of Reading, Boston, 1874.  
Eaton, Chester, and Eaton, Warren, Proceeding of the 250th Anniversary of the Ancient Town of Redding, Reading, 1896.  
Wakefield Historical Society, notes.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Wakefield MRA  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
Cover <u>Substantive Review</u>	<i>Keeper</i> <u>Beth L. Savage 7/1/88</u>
1. Beacon Street Tomb Entered in the National Register	<i>Keeper</i> <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
<del>2. Beebe Homestead</del> Entered in the National Register	<i>Keeper</i> <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
3. Boardman, E., House Entered in the National Register	<i>Keeper</i> <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
4. Boit, Elizabeth, House Entered in the National Register	<i>Keeper</i> <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
5. Building at 35--37 Richardson Avenue Entered in the National Register	<i>Keeper</i> <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/86</u> Attest _____
6. Building at 38--48 Richardson Avenue Entered in the National Register	<i>Keeper</i> <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
7. Center Depot Entered in the National Register	<i>Keeper</i> <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
8. Church--Lafayette Streets Historic District Entered in the National Register	<i>Keeper</i> <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____
9. Common District <del>Entered in the National Register</del>	<i>Keeper</i> <u>Beth L. Savage 3/2/90</u> Attest _____
10. Cowdry, Jonas, House Entered in the National Register	<i>Keeper</i> <u>Arlene Byer 7/6/89</u> Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Beebe Homestead  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Wakefield MRA  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 5/23/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/06/89  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/22/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/07/89  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89000667

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 7/6/89 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

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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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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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



1727

1862

1862

A9

142 Main St.

Beebe Homestead

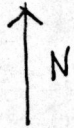
Wakefield MA, Ma

4A

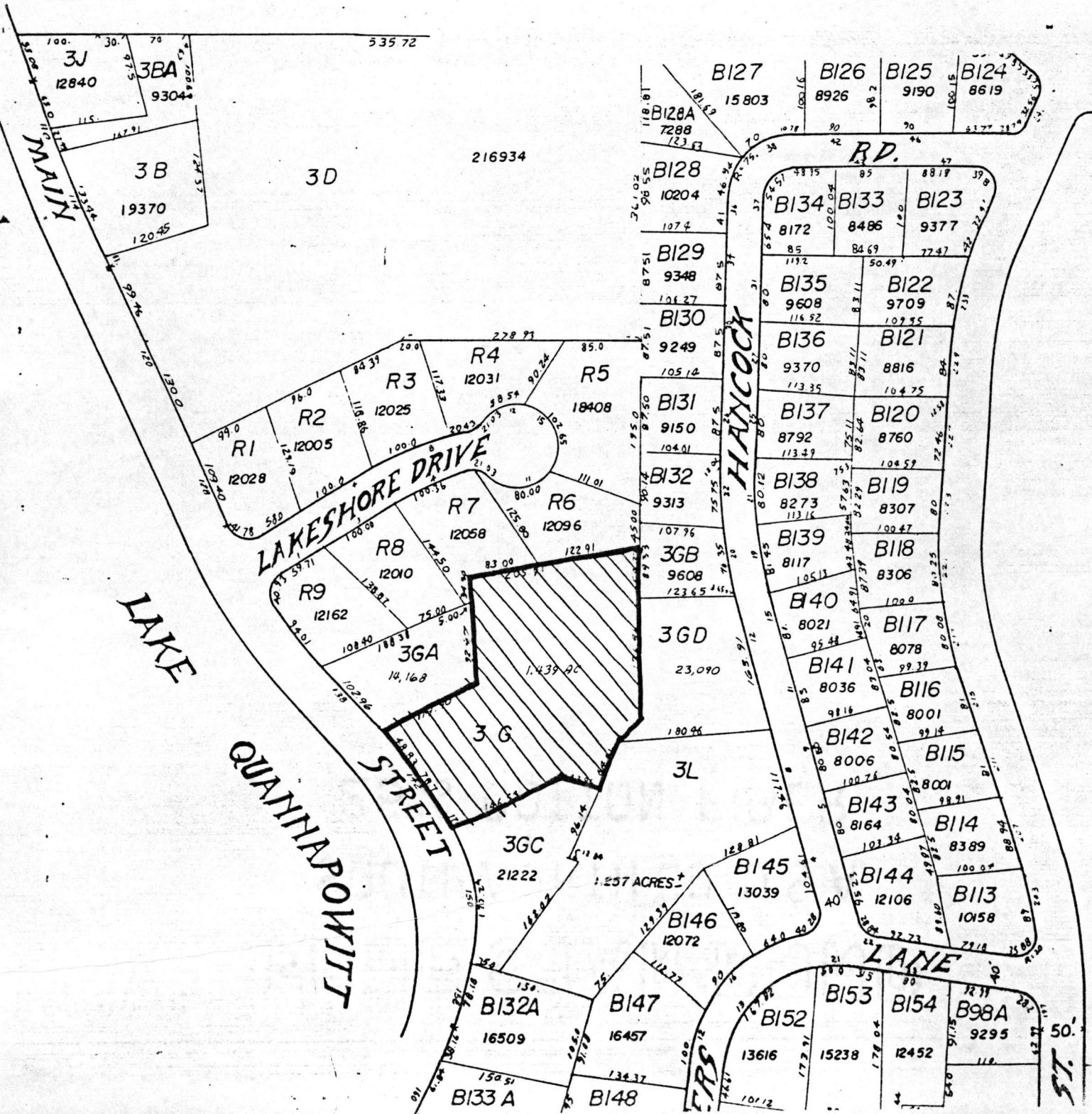
A9

142 MAIN ST

14



SCALE: 1" = 80'



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000300