

1571

AREA	FORM NO.
	116

AUG 21 1989

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 80 BOYLSTON STREET  
 BOSTON, MA 02116

NATIONAL  
 REGISTERED

Town WALTHAM, MA MRA  
Waltham, Massachusetts

Address Curtis and Sharon Sts.

Historic Name Company "F" State  
Armory

Use Present Armory  
 Original Armory

DESCRIPTION

Date 1908

Source Daily Free Press-Tribune  
1/12/1908

Style Elements of Georgian

Architect Hartwell, Richardson and Driver

Exterior Wall Fabric brick

Outbuildings - none

Major Alterations (with dates) -  
none

Condition good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage 28,884 0.06 A 68-14-3

Setting Situated in densely settled  
area of late 19th/early 20th century  
houses, prominently sited on large  
corner lot.

Recorded by Edward W. Gordon

Organization Waltham Hist. Comm.

Date June, 1986

revised by C Jenkins 3/88

Photo (3"x 3" 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 19/314900 / 4693040

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON

SCALE 1:25,000

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Company F Armory possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and associations. It is significant as the only Waltham component of the state armory system. More importantly it is one of the last state armories to be constructed to individualized architectural designs. In this case the designer was the highly respected Boston firm of Hartwell, Richardson & Driver, with Waltham resident Henry Hartwell as partner. Its design, materials and workmanship are particularly distinguished compared to other armories of the period. It 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.

Company F State Armory is a large masonry structure which is composed of a two-story (plus full basement) main block, with a one story (plus full basement) rear segment. It is Waltham's only armory building. Its main block's principal facade is treated as a projecting central pavilion with flanking wings. Its central entrance is set with a wide recessed archway. The original doors, with medieval-revival hardware, are still intact. In general, windows are set within deep and narrow openings. The main block culminates in a stepped parapet. To the rear is a long, rectangular drill shed whose side walls are characterized by corbelled and recessed panels containing two windows per panel. The building's edges are accented by vaguely Georgian Revival brickwork quoins, which stand in contrast to the medieval motifs employed for most armory designs.

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

Company F State armory is part of Waltham's fine collection of buildings designed by the Boston based architectural firm of Hartwell and Richardson. It is the only Armory building in the city. It combines Georgian Revival symmetry and brick-work quoin detailing, with a medieval sensibility (e.g. the board and batten front doors, corbelling at the side walls). Henry W. Hartwell (1833-12/30/1919) and William C. Richardson (1854-10/17/1935) practiced architecture in a partnership from 1881 to 1919. In 1895, James Driver became a partner in the firm. The firm was responsible for a long list of private homes and commercial/public buildings. Hartwell's Waltham buildings include: The Central Block (1854), Musical Hall (1880), and Buttrick Building (early 1900's). This firm was responsible for Boston's Exeter Street Theatre (early 1880's), Youth's Companion Building at Columbia Avenue and Berkely Street, and the Normal Art School. In addition, the firm designed the Town Halls for Belmont and Ware, as well as High Schools for Springfield, Dorchester and Cambridge, Ma. The armory was built by Rufus E. Lord of Waltham. He was the architect/builder of the highly eclectic "Lord's Castle" at 211 Hammond Street on Prospect Hill (see form).

The Armory was constructed at a cost of \$45,00.00. It was dedicated on

(cont)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Berry, Jean, "Report on Town Center", 1978  
Daily Free Press Tribune, "Armory Dedication", December 12, 1908  
Whitney, Henry, Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), 1970

8/85

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, The Armory, continued

December 7, 1908. This building's basement contains a "target room, dressing room, rifle range, kitchen, store room, toilets and boiler room. On the first floor is a drill shed, 90' long x 60' wide, adjacent to which is the assembly room and the empty hall from the street. The second floor holds an officer's room, captain's room, library, first sergeant's room and gun cleaning room. "

The Company F State Armory was one of the last to be constructed to individualized architectural designs, in this case by the distinguished architectural firm of Hartwell, Richardson & Driver, whose principal, Henry Hartwell, was a Waltham resident. In 1908, the State Armory Commission approved a standardized design for armories by the firm of Mulcahy & McLaughlin to streamline the building process. The group of six armories constructed in 1908 were the last before adoption of this standard plan.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

AUG 21 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Waltham MRA  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- 21. Colburn, Gilbert, House *Entered in the National Register* Keeper *Melores Byers 9/28/89*  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 22. Company F State Armory *Entered in the National Register* Keeper *Melores Byers 9/28/89*  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 23. Dow, Lenoir, House *Entered in the National Register* Keeper *Melores Byers 9/28/89*  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- See* 24. Dunbar--Stearns House *Substantive Review* Keeper *Betty L. Savage 3/9/90*  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 25. East Main Street Historic District *Entered in the National Register* Keeper *Melores Byers 9/28/89*  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 26. Eastern Middlesex County Second District Court *Entered in the National Register* Keeper *Melores Byers 9/28/89*  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- See* 27. First Congregational Church *Substantive Review* Keeper *Betty L. Savage 9/28/89*  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- See* 28. First Parish Church *Substantive Review* Keeper *Betty L. Savage 9/28/89*  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 29. Fisher, Henry N., House *Entered in the National Register* Keeper *Melores Byers 9/28/89*  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 30. Fiske, Elijah, House *Entered in the National Register* Keeper *Melores Byers 9/28/89*  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Company F State Armory  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Waltham MRA  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 8/21/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/05/89  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/21/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/05/89  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001571

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 9/28/89 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 \_\_\_\_\_



Company F State Armory

Waltham MRA, Ma

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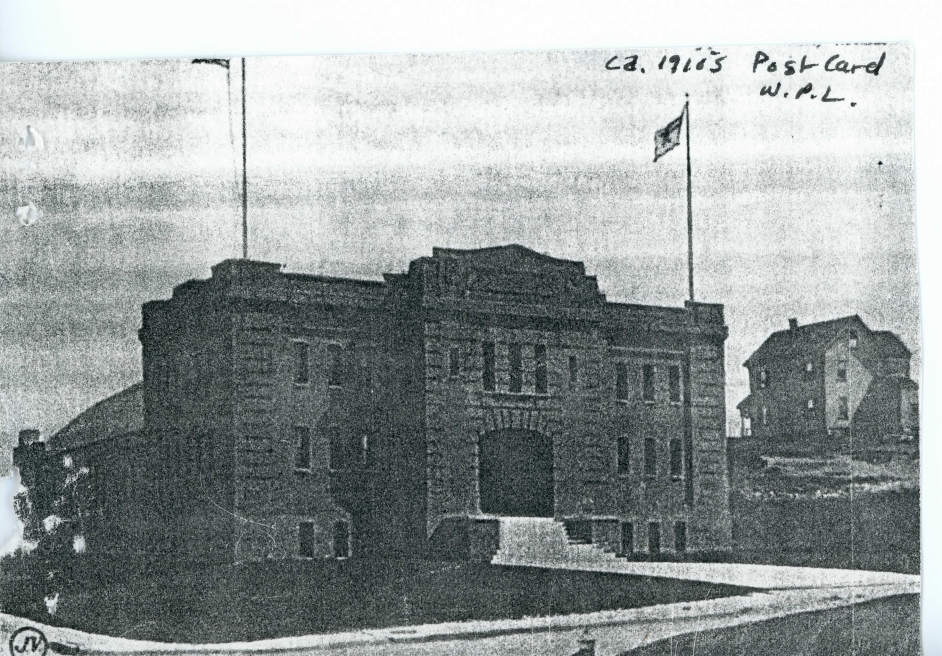
Company "F" State Armory

#116

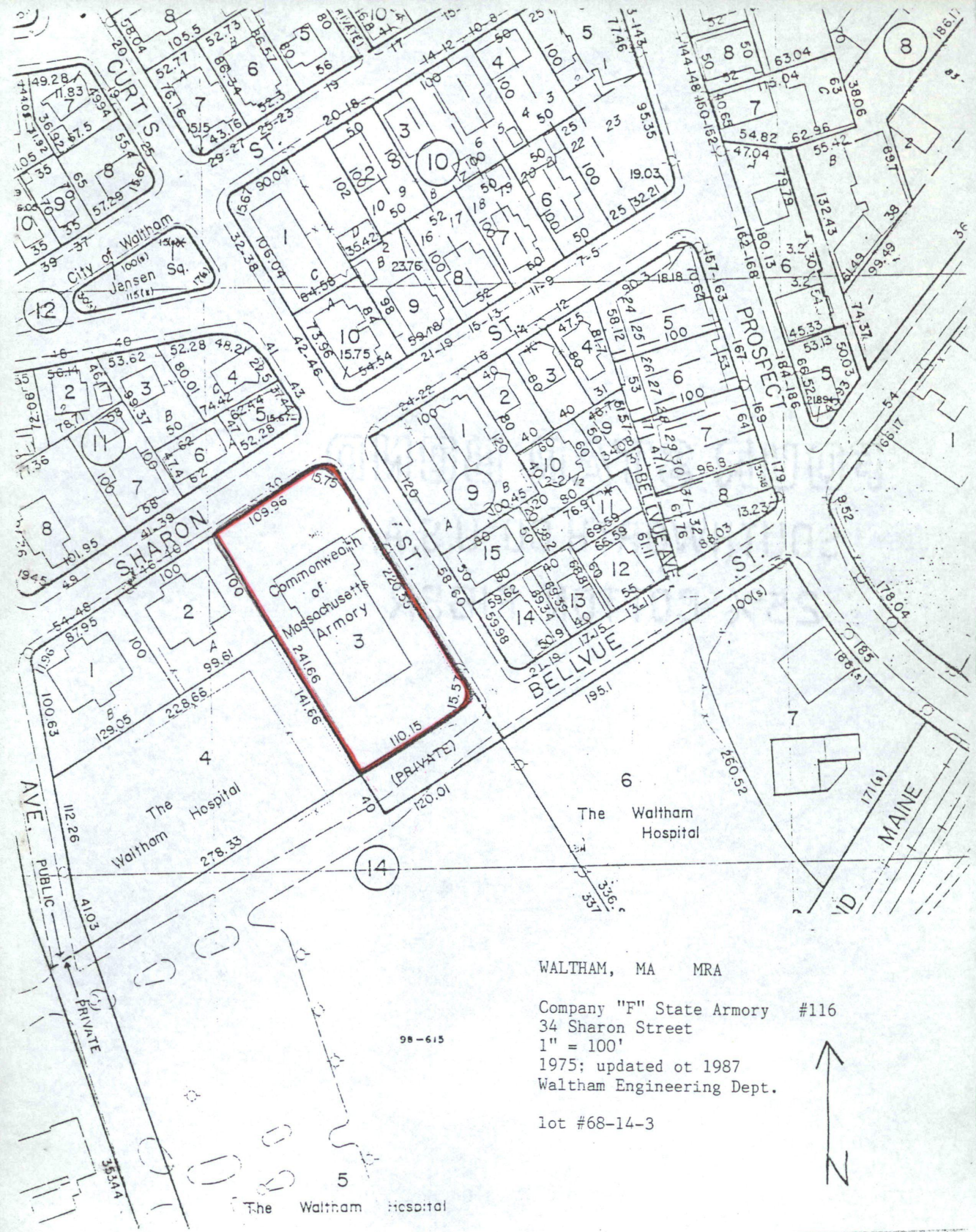
The Armory

30 Sturson St  
Waltham MA 01981

ca. 1910's Post Card  
W.P.L.



JV



WALTHAM, MA MRA

Company "F" State Armory #116

34 Sharon Street

1" = 100'

1975; updated at 1987

Waltham Engineering Dept.

lot #68-14-3

98-615



The Waltham Hospital



1970 Atlas, City of Waltham  
 Compiled by the Waltham  
 Engineering Division  
 Scale: 1 inch = 140 feet

Waltham, Massachusetts MRA  
 30 Sharon Street  
 Armory MHC # 116  
 17-L-1

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301