

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

JAN 02 1990

49

AREA

FORM NO.

WN-0124

Town Newton (West Newton)

Address 60 Highland Street

Historic Name Second Church of Newton

Use: Present church

Original same

DESCRIPTION

Date 1915-1916

Source Building Permit

Style Gothic Revival

Architect Allen & Collens

Exterior Wall Fabric stone

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

educational wing-1938

Condition excellent

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage 108,768 sq.ft. C 2.5A

Setting hilltop site south of Mass. Pike

and West Newton Willage center; part

of residential neighborhood

Recorded by Candace Jenkins/Susan Abele

Organization Newton Historical Comm.

Date 4/1987; rev. 3/1988

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 19/316620/4690520

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON

SCALE 1:25000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Second Church of Newton possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as Newton's second church, and thus for its associations with the city's early history. It is also an important example of Gothic Revival style ecclesiastical architecture by the nationally noted Boston firm of Allen & Collens. It meets criteria A & C of the NRHP.

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

The Second Church of Newton is a fine example of the Gothic Revival style designed by the nationally noted firm of Allen & Collens which was particularly well known for its Gothic Revival designs. It is a massive structure constructed of uncoursed gray stone with a molded limestone water table. The narrow buttressed facade displays a recessed pointed-arch entry with carved double-leaf doors headed by a blank screen. Above is a huge pointed-arch window with stained glass and elaborate tracery. Gargoyles and pinnacles add further embellishment. Buttresses divide the side elevations into four bays with cross gables surmounting the forward most bays. The bays contain pointed-arch windows with leaded glass. A handsome tower is attached to the rear of the north elevation; it is distinguished by a belfry whose pointed-arch openings contain tracery, and a steeple with carved crockets. Beyond the bell tower, at right angles to the nave, is a low half-timbered educational wing added in 1938 by Allen, Collens, & Willis.

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

The first meeting house of the Second Church of Newton was built in 1764 although the town was not formerly divided into an East and West Parish until 1778. As the West Parish grew, a new second meeting house was built on Washington Street. At this time, 1848, the center of town government shifted from Newton Centre to West Newton and the original second meeting house was remodeled for use as a town hall.

In 1908, members of the congregation began to consider erecting a new building and by 1913, they had purchased a prominent site on Highland Street overlooking the village of West Newton. The foundation for the new church was begun on the 150th anniversary of the laying of the foundation for their first meeting house. The cornerstone was laid June 6, 1915 and dedication took place September 27, 1916. Allen and Collens were architects for the project, with the well-known English Gothicist Henry Vaughn as consultant. Charles Collens, a principal in the firm, was a Newton resident. Collens and his firm were responsible for other commissions in the city including the Newton City Hall and War Memorial completed in 1932. In 1938, the firm, then known as Allen, Collens and Willis, added the educational wing to the Second Church.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Building Department Records 60 Highland Street
Our Church: Its History, Its Building, Its Spirit
Beautiful Newton, p. 107, *Newton Times* 6/6/15

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 Newton MRA
State Middlesex County, MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

161. Second Church of Newton **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Delores Byers 2/16/90

Attest _____

162. Stratton, Edward B., House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Delores Byers 2/16/90

Attest _____

163. Towle, Loren, Estate **National Register** Keeper Delores Byers 2/16/90

Attest _____

164. Waban Branch Library **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Delores Byers 2/16/90

Attest _____

Sub Return

165. Walker Home for Missionary Children **Substantive Review** Keeper _____

Attest _____

166. Warren, Levi, Jr., High School **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Delores Byers 2/16/90

Attest _____

167. Boston College Main Campus **Substantive Review** Keeper Ret.

Return Historic District Attest _____

168. Church, William L., House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Delores Byers 2/21/90

Attest _____

169. Farlow Hill Historic District **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Delores Byers 2/21/90

Attest _____

170. Newton Cottage Hospital Historic District **Substantive Review** Keeper Billy J. Savage 2/21/90

Attest _____

2/9-2/23/90

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Second Church of Newton
NAME:

MULTIPLE Newton MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 1/02/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/16/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/02/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/16/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000049

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 2/16/90 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

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



Second Church of Newton
60 Highland St.
Newton, MA

Newton, MA-MRA

C. Jenkins

4/87

req. @ Jackson Homeslead
view - east

WN-0124

87-7-36A

SECTION 32
BLOCK 5

SECTION 32
BLOCK 5

UTILITIES EASEMENT

UTILITY EASEMENT

SECTION 32
BLOCK 4

HILLSIDE TERRACE

INIS CIRCLE

STREET

PLIMPTON RD.

Newton, MA-MRA
60 Highland Street
SBL: 32-4-1

SECTION 32
BLOCK 7

Engineering Map - 1979
Page: 41 and 42
Scale: 1"=1000'



HIGHLAND

RICHFIELD