

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	NWT.3740
Historic Name:	Staples - Craft - Wiswall Farm
Common Name:	Kinmouth, David - Strong, William House
Address:	1615 Beacon St
City/Town:	Newton
Village/Neighborhood:	Waban
Local No:	W-10; 53032 0007
Year Constructed:	c 1750
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Federal; Georgian; Greek Revival
Use(s):	Agricultural; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Nursery; Rectory; Secondary Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture; Commerce; Recreation; Religion
Area(s):	NWT.Y: Newton Multiple Resource Area - 1636-1907 NWT.DV: Waban Village Center
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register Individual Property (9/4/1986); Nat'l Register MRA (9/4/1986)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Aluminum Siding; Wood; Vinyl Siding Foundation: Stone, Uncut; Concrete Unspecified



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

53032 0007	Newton	NWT.DV /NWT.Y	NWT.3740
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Designations: NRIND NRMRA (1986)

Town/City: Newton

Place: Waban

Photograph



Address: 1615 Beacon Street

Historic Name: Staples - Craft - Wiswall Farm

Uses: Present: Multi-family residence

Original: Residence

Date of Construction: Circa 1750

Source: Jackson, History of Newton, Historic maps

Style/Form: Georgian / Federal / Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Fieldstone / Concrete

Wall/Trim: Aluminum Siding

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations: Rear ell added, 1768.

Circa 1858 rear addition added.

1986 rear carriage house addition demolished and replaced with new residential unit.

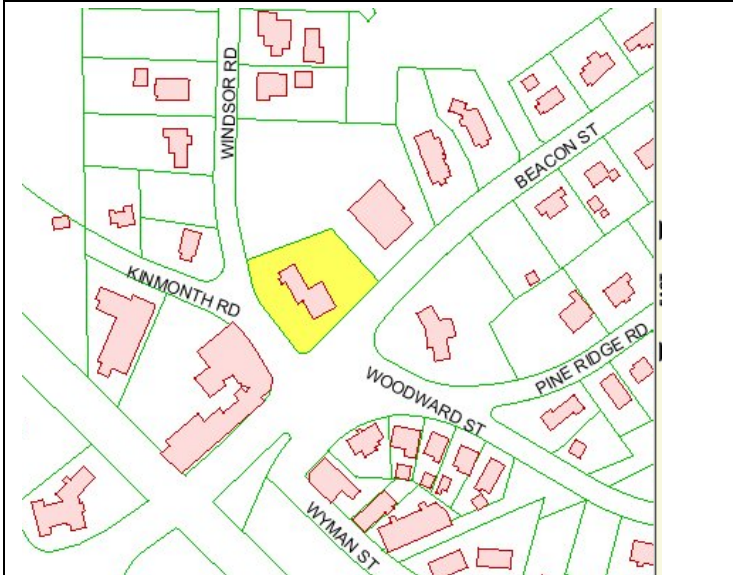
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 31,055 square feet

Setting: Located at a major intersection in the village center of Waban located next to commercial block and adjacent to residences.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Brian Lever

Organization: City of Newton

Date: 12/2010

RECEIVED
JLY 05 2011
MASS. HIST. COMM.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

NEWTON

1615 BEACON STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)

Form No.

NWT.DV / NWT.Y

NWT.3740

 Listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Over time this home has gone through various changes and includes multiple architectural styles. The present building consists of main block supported by a fieldstone foundation that is two and one half stories and five bays wide by two bays deep with a jerkin side gabled asphalt shingle roof with three dormers on the front roof. Off the rear of the main block are two additions: an 18th century two story, two by two bay ell and a late 19th century addition filling in the void between the ell and the main block that is two and one half stories high and two by two bays. Located off of the rear of the rear ell is a 1986 wing that replaced an older 19th century connected carriage house / barn. The façade consists of vinyl siding, pilasters at the corners and in between the main block and rear addition, and boxed cornice with returns with fascia board below. There are a variety of windows including double hung vinyl 6/6 and 1/1 replacement windows, bays windows, 2/2 wood double hung windows, floor to ceiling triple track windows on the front façade with entablature, coupled windows above the front entrance, as well as fanlights on the 1986 addition. Most of the windows have been replaced with the exception of those at the first floor on the front façade. An attic window has been filled in on the east façade of the rear addition. The front façade has a porch with square posts with brackets and a shed roof as well as a center entrance with sidelights and a glass and wood panel door. Two brick interior chimneys are located on the roof at the end of the main block and building has two skylights on the roof of the rear addition as well as one gabled and one hipped dormer. The 1986 rear addition supported by a concrete foundation is two and one half stories eight by four bays with a cross gabled asphalt roof with one brick interior chimney, two gabled dormers, and one shed dormer. This addition as a rear second story entrance and a first floor entrance on the west façade with sidelights and a glass and wood panel door.

Originally constructed as a Georgian style home this building occupied the same lot as an earlier home constructed circa 1688. Parts of that earlier home may have been reused in this building. Several local historians have attempted to reconstruct the various changes to the building. The first rear addition or ell was described as new in 1768 and Francis Jackson's notes used to create his 1854 history of Newton states that the earlier home had been demolished. This suggests that the current building was built prior to 1768 and that the previous building was not incorporated into it. Starting in Georgian style the building was altered to reflect the changing trends in architecture. The building was updated in Federal style, Greek Revival, and Gothic Revival style. Historic photographs show that at one time the building had 2/2 windows throughout much of the first and second floor. These changes appear to correspond with changes of ownership of the property.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE:

Moses Craft (1702-1768) had built a new house on this property (the present building) for himself and his wife Esther Woodward (daughter of Daniel) whom he married in 1729. The date of construction of this building is difficult to definitively determine. In 1688 Deacon John Staples (1658-1740) arrived in Newton and took control of this property consisting of 93 acres and built a house for himself. Staples a weaver by trade was also the first public school teacher in town and held a number of positions including Town Clerk, Constable, and Selectman. In 1714 he was involved in the survey of the town to determine its center for the purposes of locating the new meeting house. This survey still exists and is the oldest known map of Newton. Staples married Mary Craft (d. 1763) in 1690. They had no children, but raised some of Mary's relatives including Moses Craft who later inherited the property.

Jackson states that Craft lived with Staples and bequeathed him the property in 1740 with the condition that he could take ownership after death of Staples' wife Mary. Francis Jackson in his manuscript material also stated that the Staples house which predated the present building was torn down. Moses Craft later sold use of a new rear ell to his son Joseph in 1768 along with 20 acres, suggesting a mid 18th century construction date for the building.

Like his foster father, Moses was a weaver by trade and active in the town including serving on a number of committees as well as selectman and other posts. He was referred to as Lt. Craft suggesting a position in the militia as well. Moses and Esther had

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

NEWTON

1615 BEACON STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)

Form No.

NWT.DV / NWT.Y

NWT.3740

eight children, the youngest of whom Joseph was sold the use of the new rear ell in 1768. Joseph bought and inherited sections of the farm and the house from his father. Joseph had two wives Elizabeth Davis and Sarah Fuller with which he had a total of

fifteen children. Joseph was a farmer, a soldier during the Revolution, and like his father he was active in town serving as a selectman, but unfortunately unsuccessful in life and died intestate at 85 in 1821. William Wiswall II a farmer purchased the property in 1822 consisting of the house and 76 acres. Wiswall and his wife Ruth are believed to be responsible to the Greek Revival updates to the home including the triple track windows, pilasters, and the front porch. David Kinmonth a Boston merchant purchased the home in 1858 and is believed to have added the Gothic Revival details including the jerkin ends of the roofline, the coupled windows on the front façade and the second rear addition. The property changed hands twice until owned by William Strong and his wife Mary in 1875. Strong was a prominent man in the development of Waban as a village center and built a commercial block there known as Strong's Block (MHC# NWT.3741) at 1649 Beacon Street. Strong was also President of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and used the property as a nursery. The property was broken up under Strong's ownership into house lots. Ownership changed hands several times until it was bought by the Church of the Good Shepard located just up Beacon Street. The church used the property as a rectory before it again became a private residence in the late 20th century and it is now is use as a multifamily dwelling.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES:

City of Newton Inspectional Services files

City of Newton Maps and Atlases , 1714-1772, 1831, 1839, 1848, 1855, 1856, 1874, 1886, 1895, 1907, 1929

Jackson, Francis. (1854) History of the Early Settlement of Newton (includes "1700" conjectural map of Newton)

Jackson Homestead property file: Moses Craft will, Francis Jackson Manuscript

Jean Husher, "The Moses Craft House" Jackson Homestead Archives

Ritter, Priscilla, and Thelma Fleishman. (1982) Newton, Massachusetts, 1679-1779 A Biographical Directory

Shea, Deborah (1981) MHC Building Inventory Form

Smith, Samuel Francis. (1880) History of Newton, Massachusetts. Town and City, from Its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time. 1630-1880

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

NEWTON

1615 BEACON STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)	Form No.
NWT.DV / NWT.Y	NWT.3740

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS:

View from Windsor Road



View from adjacent property



FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
85	NWT.3740 W 10



Newton, Mass. M.R.A.

own Newton (Waban)

Address 1615 Beacon Street

Historic Name Staples-Crafts-Wiswall

Use Farm

Present dwelling

Original dwelling

DESCRIPTION

Date mid-eighteenth century

Source Genealogical data

Style Georgian/Federal/ Victorian

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric aluminum-c.1970s

Outbuildings garage

Major Alterations (with dates) 1768-rear

ell added; 1824-Federal re-styling;
1858-Victorianized. 1986-rear addit.
condition & rear ell demolished.

Food

(SEE ATTACHED MAP)

Moved no Date _____

Acres 31.055 sq. ft.

Setting Along main thoroughfare at
commercial center of village

UTM REFERENCE 19.316200.4688300

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON, MASS.

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Deborah Shea

Organization Newton Historical Comm.

Date 5/81; rev. by H.White 3/86

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Staples-Crafts-Wiswall farmstead is an important visual link to Waban's eighteenth century agricultural beginnings and has associations with the Staples, Crafts and Wiswall families who were among the area's earliest inhabitants. Therefore the Staples-Crafts-Wiswall Farm meets Criteria A and B of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

The present house at 1615 Beacon Street was erected on the site of the late seventeenth century house of Deacon John Staples. Though greatly altered, it does incorporate the foundation, structural members and hardware of the Staples dwelling. Moses Craft, who was raised by Deacon Staples and his wife, is believed to have rebuilt the Staples house, replacing it with a more fashionable one, during the mid-eighteenth century. Crafts added an ell in 1769 which he sold to his son, Joseph.

In 1824, the house was owned by William Wiswall, a cousin of the Craft family. Wiswall is believed responsible for the Federal style remodelling of the earlier Georgian house.

In 1858 Wiswall sold the farmstead to David Kinmouth, a Boston merchant. Desiring a stylish summer estate Kinmouth extensively remodelled

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

Deacon John Staples (1658?-1740) was Newton's first school master. In 1688 he came to Newton and had built a house on this site by 1700. His vast 93-acre estate reached from Beacon Street eastward as far as Chestnut Street. Deacon Staples was a politically active citizen and held a number of public offices. For many years he was the Town Clerk and Treasurer, and in 1700 he was appointed Newton's first schoolmaster, for which he was paid 5 shillings per session.

As Staples and his wife were childless, the couple raised several boys from other families. One, Moses Craft, eventually inherited the farmhouse. It was rebuilt by Moses Craft during the mid-eighteenth century and an ell added in 1768. The ell was sold by Moses to his son Joseph, who had agreed to remain and operate the farm. Joseph was the father of 15 children. He and his wife continued to live on the farm long after they were able to maintain it, and parcels were occasionally sold in order to meet expenses. Joseph Crafts died in 1821 at the age of 85, leaving no will and considerable debts owed. The Judge of Probate ordered the property to be auctioned, and Joseph's son, Moses Crafts II, made the winning bid of \$5.50 for the house, barn, and a large tract of land.

In 1824 Moses Craft II sold the property to his cousin William Wiswall II. Wiswall gave the house a Federal period remodelling. He was a prosperous

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Newton's 19th C. Architecture: Newton Highlands & Waban, Historic Newton, Inc.
1982, pp.17-18.

Jackson Homestead files.

Francis Jackson, History of the Early Settlement of Newton 1639-1800, Boston, 1854

Vital Records to 1850, Newton, Mass.

Isabel L. Strong, Waban Early Days 1681-1918, Waban, 1944.

Atlases: 1874, 1886, 1895

Maps: Jackson Map, 1848, 1855.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newton (Waban)	Form No: W 10
Property Name: Staples-Crafts-Wiswall Farm	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Architectural Significance:

the house, giving it its present appearance. The gable ends were clipped, and jerkin-head gables were added to the dormers. Several bay windows were added and the porches were extended. The L-plan of the house was squared off by the addition of a new oval dining room to the northeast corner, with an arched bedroom above.



Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newton (Waban)	Form No: W 10
Property Name: Staples-Crafts-Wiswall Farm	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Historical Significance:

farmer until 1858, when he was unable to maintain the farm any longer, selling it to David Kinmouth, a wealthy Boston drygoods merchant.

Desiring a stylish summer estate, Kinmouth extensively remodelled the house, giving it the present appearance. Kinmouth died in 1865; at that time the property was sold to another Boston merchant, Edward Wyman.



City of Newton Assessor's Maps. Sheet 101
 Metric Series. 1979
 Scale: UTM grid line interval = 100 meters (328 feet)

Newton, Mass. M.R.A.
 1615 Beacon Street, Waban
 Staples-Crafts-Wiswall House
 53-32-7

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

NRIND
NRMRA

3740

Area <u>851</u>	Form no. <u>W 10</u>
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Waban

Address 1615 Beacon Street

Historic Name Staples Crafts-Wiswall House

Original Residence

Present Same

Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization

Public

Original owner William & Jeremiah Wiswall
Joseph Crafts-north

DESCRIPTION: ell

Date ca 1810, rear ell 1868

Source surveyor, genealogical data

Style Late Federal

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric aluminum

Outbuildings garage, barns attached to rear of structure

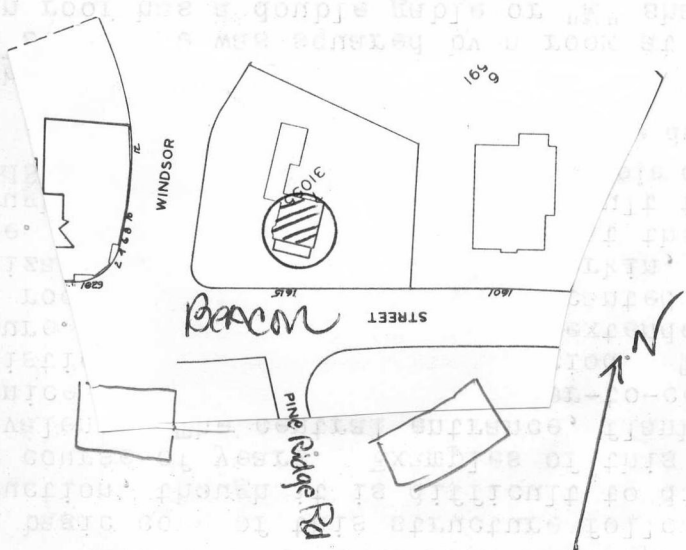
Major alterations (with dates) _____

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 3/4 acre

Setting Prominently situated on Beacon St., a major thoroughfare, adjacent to what is now the center of Waban.

Draw map showing property location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.



Recorded by Deborah Shea

Organization Newton Historical Comm.

Date May, 1981

(Staple additional sheets here)

SIGNIFICANCE

MAJOR _____ X

CONTRIBUTING _____

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

The basic core of this structure follows the two room center hall plan of construction, though it is difficult to discern because of numerous additions over the course of years. Examples of this house type with double back chimneys are prevalent. The central entrance, flanked by full sidelights and capped with a cornice and frieze, and the floor-to-ceiling windows on the facade are characteristic of the ~~Late Federal~~ period. The structure is framed by a Tuscan entablature. The verandah initially extended around three sides of the structure. The roof, originally gable, was canted at the peak during a 19th century modernization. The dormers, also jerkin, and polygonal bays were added at this time. Local historians assert that the service wing was standing in 1768, though again its outline is difficult to view because of later alterations.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

Arch. Sig. Cont.

The structure was squared by a room at the northeast corner. The east elevation roof has a double gable or "M" shape.

Historical Significance

It is difficult to accurately date this residence as it has undergone extensive alteration since its construction. It was aluminized in the 1970's, though care was taken to preserve its architectural integrity. The residence was Victorianized in 1858 by David Kinmouth, a Boston dry goods merchant. A residence was definitely standing on the site in 1768. It is specifically mentioned in a deed in which Moses Crafts sells his son Joseph the new northerly section of his house. This new section is ironically, now the oldest section of the structure. Jeremiah Wiswall, Jr. was a later occupant of the residence. He married Joseph Craft's eldest child Sarah in 1784. William Wiswall, Jeremiah's brother, also apparently resided here during the later part of the 18th century as his name and marriage date, 1788, are recorded on the 18th century Jackson map. The main body of the residence appears to have been rebuilt ca 1810.

The structure is one of the oldest in the immediate neighborhood, and serves as a visual link to pre-suburban Waban. The premise was initially 93 acres when Moses Crafts acquired it in 1729. It was situated close to a fork in the old Sherborn Road and at the base of Moffat Hill. William Strong, a later occupant, who acquired it in the 1870's developed the estate into streets and frontage lots. Refer to 48 Windsor Road for a detailed history.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Jackson Homestead Archives
Francis Jackson, History of the Early Settlement of Newton 1639-1800, Boston 1854
Newton, Mass. Vital Records to 1850
Isabel L. Strong, Waban Early Days 1681-1918, Waban 1914
Newton Atlas 1874, 1886, 1895
Jackson Map, 1848 Map, 1855 Map

FORM B - BUILDING

Area 85	Form no. W-10
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

Town Waban

Address 1615 Beacon Street

Historic Name Staples-Craft-Wiswall Farm
House

Use: Original house

Present same

Ownership: Private individual
 Private organization
 Public

Original owner John Staples

PHOTO (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 80-F-14/27

SKETCH MAP

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.

DESCRIPTION:

Date Begun early 18th Century,
several additions

Source Jackson Homestead Archives
Genealogical Data

Style Continuous house

Architect occupants

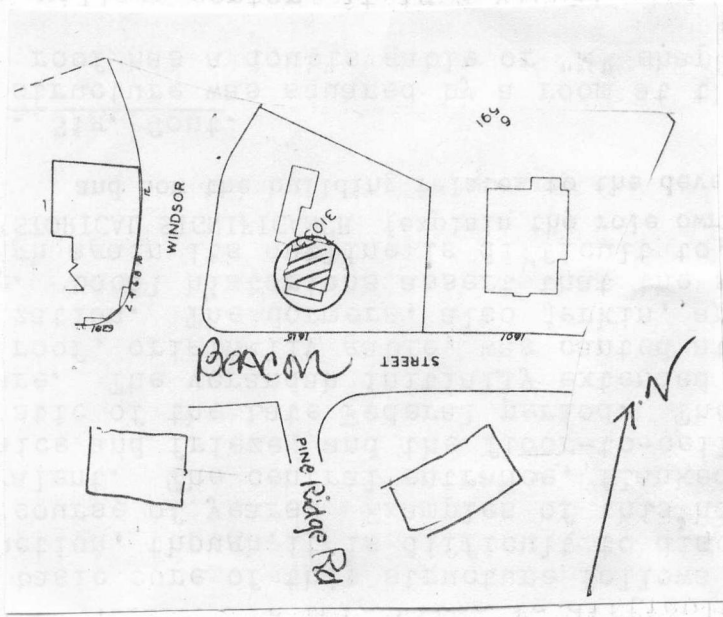
Exterior wall fabric aluminum

Outbuildings garage, attached barns

Major alterations (with dates) Floor-to-
ceiling windows- Federal period,
Jerkin roofs, bays, porch extensions-
about 1860

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 3/4 acre



Recorded by Deborah Shea

Organization Newton Historical Comm.

Date March 1982

Setting Prominently situated along
Beacon Street in Waban Center

SIGNIFICANCE

MAJOR ~~X~~

CONTRIBUTING

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

Originally constructed following the two room-center hall plan, the basic core of this house is difficult to discern because of many additions. Examples of this housetype with double back chimneys are prevalent in the neighborhood. The central entrance, flanked by full sidelights and capped with a cornice and frieze, and the floor-to-ceiling windows on the facade were added c. 1815 as was the Tuscan entablature which frames the structure. The verandah at one point extended around three sides of the structure. The roof, originally gable, was canted at its peak as were the dormers, about 1860. Local historians assert that the service wing was standing in 1768, though its outline is difficult to view. The structure has a squared off shape because of the addition of

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

an oval shaped dining room at the NorthEast corner. The East elevation roof Has a double gable or "M" shape.

Historical Significance

It is difficult to accurately date the year of construction of this house. It is one of the oldest in the village, and prominently situated in the village center, provides a visual link to the pre-suburban past. The premises was occupied by Deacon John Staples and included 93 acre when Moses Craft acquired title to it in 1729. In 1768 Moses Craft sold his son Joseph the new north section of his house. Jeremiah Wiswall Jr. married Craft's eldest child Sarah in 1784 and moved into the house. William Wiswall, Jeremiah's brother, also apparently resided here during the latter part of the 18th Century for his name and marriage date appear on the Jackson Map. The residence was victorianized after David Kinmonth, a wealthy Boston dry goods merchant, acquired it in 1858. William Strong, a later occupant who acquired it in the 1870's, developed the estate into streets and houselots after the Circuit Railroad was completed in 1886. (Also refer to 48 Windsor Road for a detailed history.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Jackson Homestead Archives

Newton Atlases, maps 1831, 1848, 1855, 1874, 1886, 1895

Vital Records to 1850, Newton, Mass.

Waban Early Days 1681-1918, Waban 1914

Francis Jackson, History of the Early Settlement of Newton 1639-1800, Boston

2. Town Newton (Wabam)

Street address 1615 Beacon St. -

cor. Windsor Rd.

Name Deacon John Staples House

Original use Home

Present use Home - factory of the shed

Present owner Donald Nordbeck

Ch. of the Good Shepherd
Mrs & Mr Donald Nordbeck

Open to public X

Date c 1730 ~~pre 1690~~ Style Victorian Farm

Source of date J.H. Publ. #2

Architect prob. John Staples - builder



Development of town/city

3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: field stone

WALL COVER: Wood clap board Brick Stone Other

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard with jerkin heads added 1858
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork with jerkin head roofs added 1858

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End End interior Cluster Elaborate Irregular

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency Barn attached to shed

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony Recessed:

FACADE: Gable end: Front Side Ornament: side lights

Entrance: Side Front Center Side Details: porch extends across front - added 1858 -
continues around west side without a rest

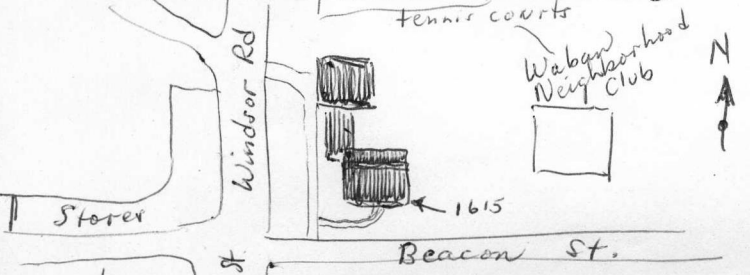
Windows: Spacing: Regular Irregular Identical Varied 1st fl. front triple hung sash (1858)

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards 2nd fl. front - center window replaced by a pair (1858), rest 2 over 2 (1858)
bay at either end 1st floor (1858), bay near room on east (1858)
new sliding glass doors on north side facing on garden.

OUTBUILDINGS

5. Indicate location of structure in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings

6. Footage of structure from street
Property has _____ feet frontage on street



Recorder E. M. Husher

For M. H. C.

Photo ✓

Date 3/15/73

NOTE: Recorder should obtain written permission from Commission or sponsoring organization before using this form.

SEE REVERSE SIDE

JUL 31 1973

RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

Neighboring Structures

Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.
Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian

Type Buildings: _____ Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

Use: Residential Commercial Religious Proximity: _____

Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden Formal Informal

Predominant Features 2 large elm trees, lilac bushes - garden out of sight from street
Landscape Architect _____

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

~~In one of older rooms in the house, it is said that~~
John Staples, who came to Newton in 1688, m. Mary Craft July 24, 1690 by John Eliot. Staples was a Deacon, the 3rd. Town Clerk (1714-1734), and the town's first schoolmaster. J.H. Publ. #2. Staples had no children, left property to ward Moses Crafts. Above statement traditional, but proved false upon investigation - Eliot + son, too, dead bfore marriage took place. Front part of house prob. built about 1730 - second-hand lumber apparent in basement. (used beams turned over). Treenails can be seen in attic. North west part of house rebuilt in 1768 to accommodate ^{Moses Crafts} son Joseph's young family. House now L shaped. Bought in 1858 by Boston merchant Knimmons + Victorian additions made. New rooms added at NE by filling in the L to a square. Mostly unchanged since then. The house is interesting because, altho' radically altered in 1858, the alterations themselves are now worth study.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

F. Jackson	<u>History of Newton</u>	Boston 1854
S.F. Smith	<u>History of Newton</u>	Boston 1880
So. Middlesex	Registry of Deeds	Cambridge
" "	" " Wills	Cambridge

House endangered because zoned for business - owners have been approached by prospective restaurant operators.

RESTRICTIONS

It is not known how Staples acquired property. Staples willed to Moses Craft, Original Owner: as did Moses to son Joseph.

Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____, Registry of Deeds

Joseph's son Moses II bought property when sold at auction 1822 for \$500! and sold to Wm. Wismall II 1822 - Book 259 page 352 (S. Middlesex)