

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No: NWT.2890

Historic Name: Newton Centre Branch Library

Common Name: Newton Department of Health Offices

Address: 1294 Centre St

City/Town: Newton

Village/Neighborhood: Newton Center

Local No: NC-040; 61-035-03

Year Constructed:

Architect(s): Ritchie, Parsons and Taylor

Architectural Style(s): English Revival

Use(s): Administration Office; Library

Significance: Architecture; Community Planning; Education

Area(s): NWT.Z: Newton Multiple Resource Area - 1908-1940
NWT.DO: Newton Center Village Center

Designation(s): Nat'l Register Individual Property (2/16/1990); Nat'l Register MRA (2/16/1990)

Building Materials(s): Roof: Slate
Wall: Brick; Cast Stone
Foundation: Brick; Stone, Uncut



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

This file was accessed on:

Friday, January 02, 2015 at 1:18: PM

NWT. 2890

FORM B - BUILDING

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

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

61-035-03

Boston South

DO, Z

2890

NR/MS/MR - 2/16/90

Town Newton



neighborhood or village)
Centre
94 Centre Street
me Newton Centre Branch Library
ent Department of Health
inal Library
nstruction 1927
ding records
Tudor Revival

Architect/Builder Richie, Parsons & Taylor

Exterior Material:

Foundation Brick/Stone

Wall/Trim Brick

Roof Slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures None

Major Alterations (with dates) None

Condition Good

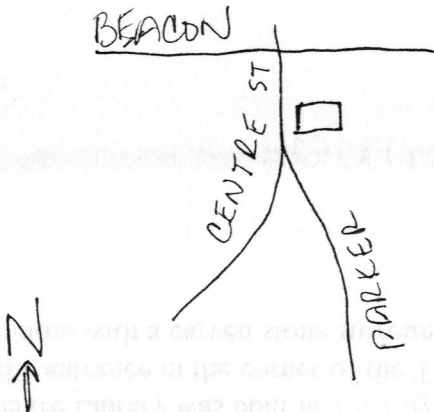
Moved no yes Date

Acreage 16,160 Sq Ft

Setting West end of village commercial area,
grouped with commercial buildings

Sketch Map

Draw a map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets, including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate north.



Recorded by Hillary Sullivan

Organization BU Preservation Studies

Date 10/30/97

RECEIVED

MAR 16 1998

MASS HIST COM

BUILDING FORM

NWT. 2890

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [] *see continuation sheet*

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Newton Centre Library was built in 1927 by Richie, Parsons and Taylor. The building is a 1 1/2 story reverse T plan with the entrance in the corner of the T. The exterior is brick with a slate roof. In the gable end there is a circular window with a carved stone surround. The doorway has a segmental arched stone surround.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE [] *see continuation sheet*

Explain history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Newton Centre Library is one of the five Tudor Revival libraries built between 1926 and 1939 with citizen subscription. Newton Centre and Chestnut Hill combined to fundraise for this project. The form of Richie, Parsons and Taylor designed the building. James Richie, one of the principals in the firm, was a Newton Centre resident, first living at 34 Hancock Ave and later at 10 The Ledges. He was involved in several other Newton buildings, including the Police Station, Court House and several schools. Other, private commissions, included the Woodland and Charles River Golf Clubs and the Union Church in Waban. This library building is currently used to house the Department of Health.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES [] *see continuation sheet*

Building records 1294 Centre Street
Newton Graphic 3/1/26. 1/15/28
1987 MHC B Form

[X] Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, a completed National Register Criteria Statement form is attached.*

FORM B - BUILDING

NRIND NRMRA 2/16/1990 [NWT.Z]

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Newton, MA-MRA

AREA

NWT.2890

FORM NO.

NC-040



Newton (Newton Centre)

Address 1294 Centre Street

Original Name Newton Centre Branch Library

Present Use library

Original Use same

DESCRIPTION

1927

Contents Building Dept. & Water records

Style Tudor Revival

Architect Ritchie, Parsons & Taylor

Exterior Wall Fabric brick

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition good

Moved no **Date** n/a

Acres 16,160 sq.ft. C.37A

Setting west end of village commercial

center; grouped with several other

institutional buildings

Recorded by Candace Jenkins/Susan Abele

Organization Newton Historical Comm.

Date 3/1987; rev. 3/1988

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 19/319130/4688460

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON

SCALE 1:25000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Newton Centre Library possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant as one of five branch libraries built in the city by citizen subscription between 1926-1939 (see WN-J,1925; A-03,1927; W-0101,1929; NV-G,1938). As such it reflects Newton's tremendous growth during that period and the continuing strength of its village system. It is also a good institutional example of the Tudor Revival style by the prolific local and regional architect, James Ritchie. It meets criteria A & C of the NRHP.

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

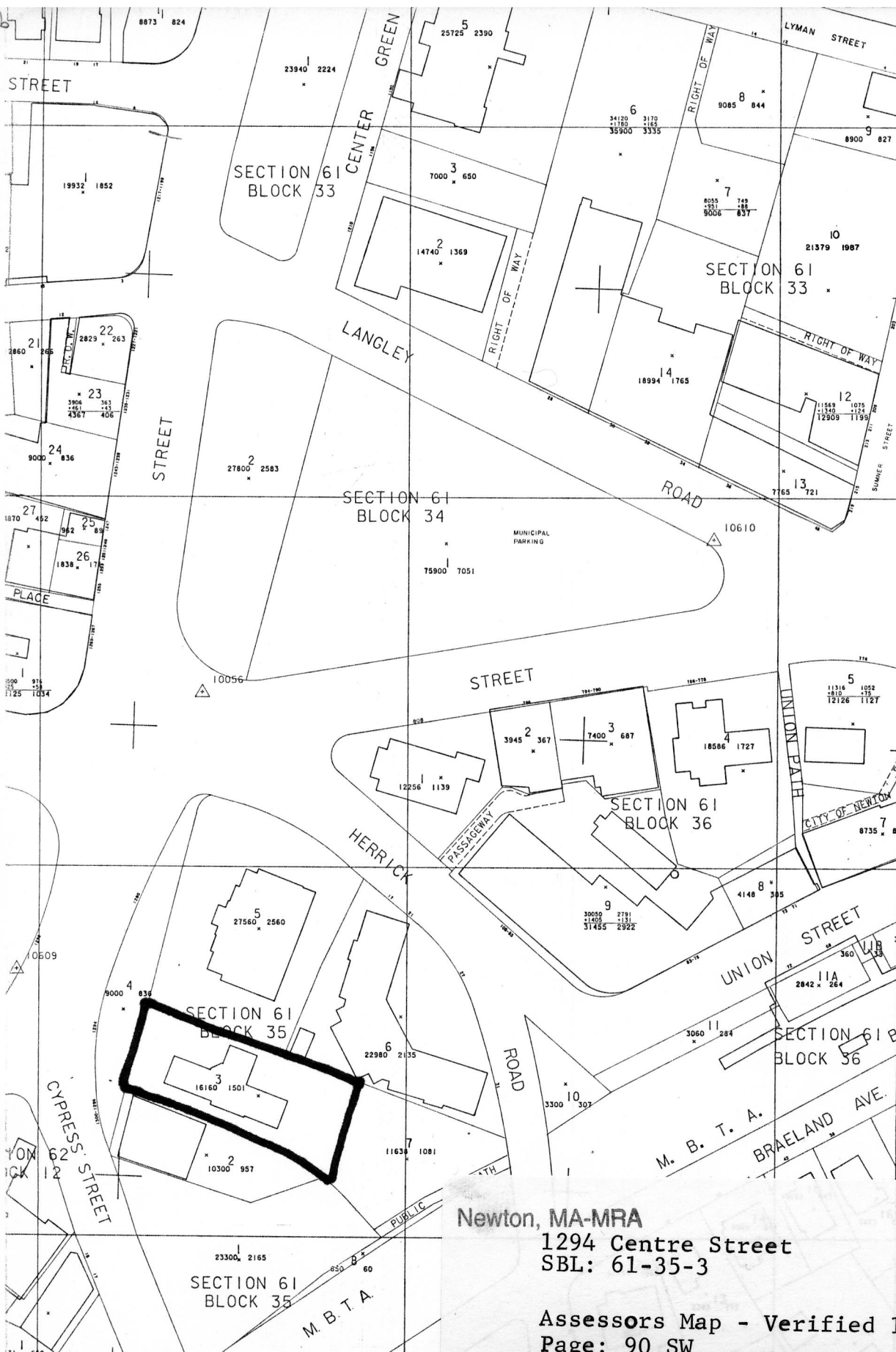
The Newton Centre Branch Library was designed by the firm of Ritchie, Parsons & Taylor in 1927. It is a 1 1/2 story, L-plan brick structure enclosed by a slate gable roof contained by raised end walls. The entry, with its Classical Revival style segmental arched stone surround, is located at the L and a large bank of windows with transom is located on the end wall facing the street. A triple window with arched heads is located on the wall east of the entry and a cross gable breaks up the wall to the west.

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

The Newton Centre Branch Library was one of five branch libraries to be built by citizen subscription between 1926 and 1939. Fundraising from the Newton Centre and Chestnut Hill community was begun in 1926. A permit was granted for construction in 1927 and the building was opened January 15, 1928. The library was designed by the firm of Ritchie, Parsons and Taylor. James Ritchie, a Newton Centre resident lived at 34 Hancock Avenue and later 10 The Ledges. He was the architect for a number of buildings in the city, including the Police Station and Court House, as well as several public schools. Private commissions included the Union Church in Waban, and the Charles River and Woodland Golf Clubs.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Building Records 1294 Centre Street
Newton Graphic 3/12/26, 1/15/28



Newton, MA-MRA

1294 Centre Street
SBL: 61-35-3

Assessors Map - Verified 1985
Page: 90 SW
Scale: 1"=40' Reduced 50%

NWT.2890

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

NRIND
NRMA

AREA

2890

FORM NO.

2 NC-040



Newton (Newton Centre) ^{DE}
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Historic Name Newton Centre Branch Library

Present library

Original same

DESCRIPTION

1927

Source Building Dept. & Water Records

Style Tudor Revival

Architect Ritchie, Parsons & Taylor

Exterior Wall Fabric brick

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates)

none

Condition good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage 16,160 sq. ft.

Setting west end of village commercial

district: grouped with several

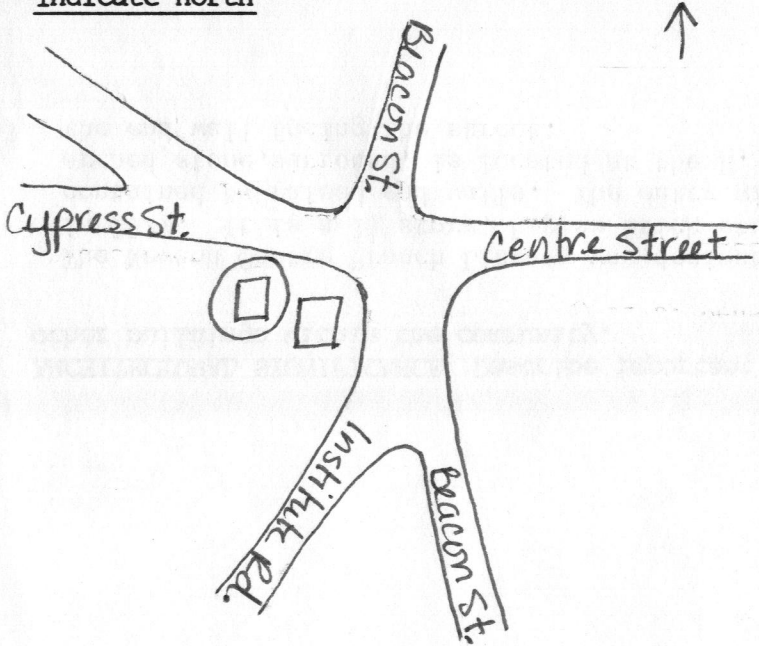
other institutional buildings

Recorded by Candace Jenkins

Organization Newton Historical Comm.

Date March 1987

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

USGS QUADRANGLE

SCALE

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

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

The Newton Centre Branch Library was designed by the firm of Ritchie, Parsons & Taylor in 1927. It is a 1½ story, L-plan brick structure enclosed by a slate gable roof contained by raised end walls. The entry with its Classical Revival style segmental arched stone surround, is located at the L. A large bank of windows is located on the end wall facing the street.

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

) The Newton Centre Branch Library was one of five branch libraries to be built by citizen
) subscription between 1926 and 1939. Fundraising from the Newton Centre and Chestnut Hill community was begun in 1926. A permit was granted for construction in 1927 and the building was opened January 15, 1928. The library was designed by the firm of Ritchie, Parsons and Taylor. James Ritchie, a Newton Centrer resident lived at 34 Hancock Avenue and later 10 The Ledges. He was the architect for a number of buildings in the city, including the Police Station and Court House, as well as several public schools. Private comissions included the Union Church in Waban, and the Charles River and Woodland Golf Clubs.

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