

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NWT.3741
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Strong's Block
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	1637-1651 Beacon St 2-12 Windsor Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Newton
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Waban;
<b>Local No:</b>	W-11;
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1896
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Colonial Revival;
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Bacon, Lewis Howard;
<b>Use(s):</b>	Commercial Block;
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Commerce;
<b>Area(s):</b>	NWT.DV
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register Individual Property (09/04/1986); Nat'l Register MRA (09/04/1986);
<b>Building Materials:</b>	Roof: Slate; Wall: Brick; Stone, Cut;
<b>Demolished</b>	No



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on: Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 4:29 PM

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
85	W11

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 80 BOYLSTON STREET  
 BOSTON, MA 02116



Newton, Mass. M.R.A.

own Newton (Waban)

address 1637-51 Beacon Street  
known as 2-12 Windsor Road)  
 historic Name Strong's Block

use: Present commercial block

Original commercial block

DESCRIPTION

date 1896

source Water Records

style Dutch Colonial Revival

architect Lewis H. Bacon

Exterior Wall Fabric red brick

Outbuildings none

In relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

Major Alterations (with dates) 1635-39

Beacon St added, rebuilt 1922;

1629-33 Beacon St added-1923

Condition Good

(SEE ATTACHED MAP)

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

Acreage 54, 198 sq. ft.

Setting Commercial center of village  
along major thoroughfare (formerly  
part of Sherborn Road)

UTM REFERENCE 19.316130.4688220

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)**

Strong's Block is one of the city's few remaining intact nineteenth century commercial blocks, and possesses integrity of design and location, and exhibits a high level of workmanship and materials, therefore meeting 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.

Strong's Block is a distinctive two and one-half story commercial block built in a style reminiscent of Flemish architecture of the Renaissance period. The focal point of the design is the gable roof of slate with its stepped end parapets, a motif repeated in the center gable of the facade. Windows of the gable and second story are set beneath panels of decorative brick; flanking windows are set beneath jack arches.

The building was designed by Lewis H. Bacon, a Waban resident, and partner in the architectural firm of Hill & Bacon.

The upper floors were apartments with storefronts on the ground level.

A rendering of the building appeared in the October 31, 1896 issue of American Architect & Building News. Sympathetically designed additions to the west elevation were made during the 1920s.

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

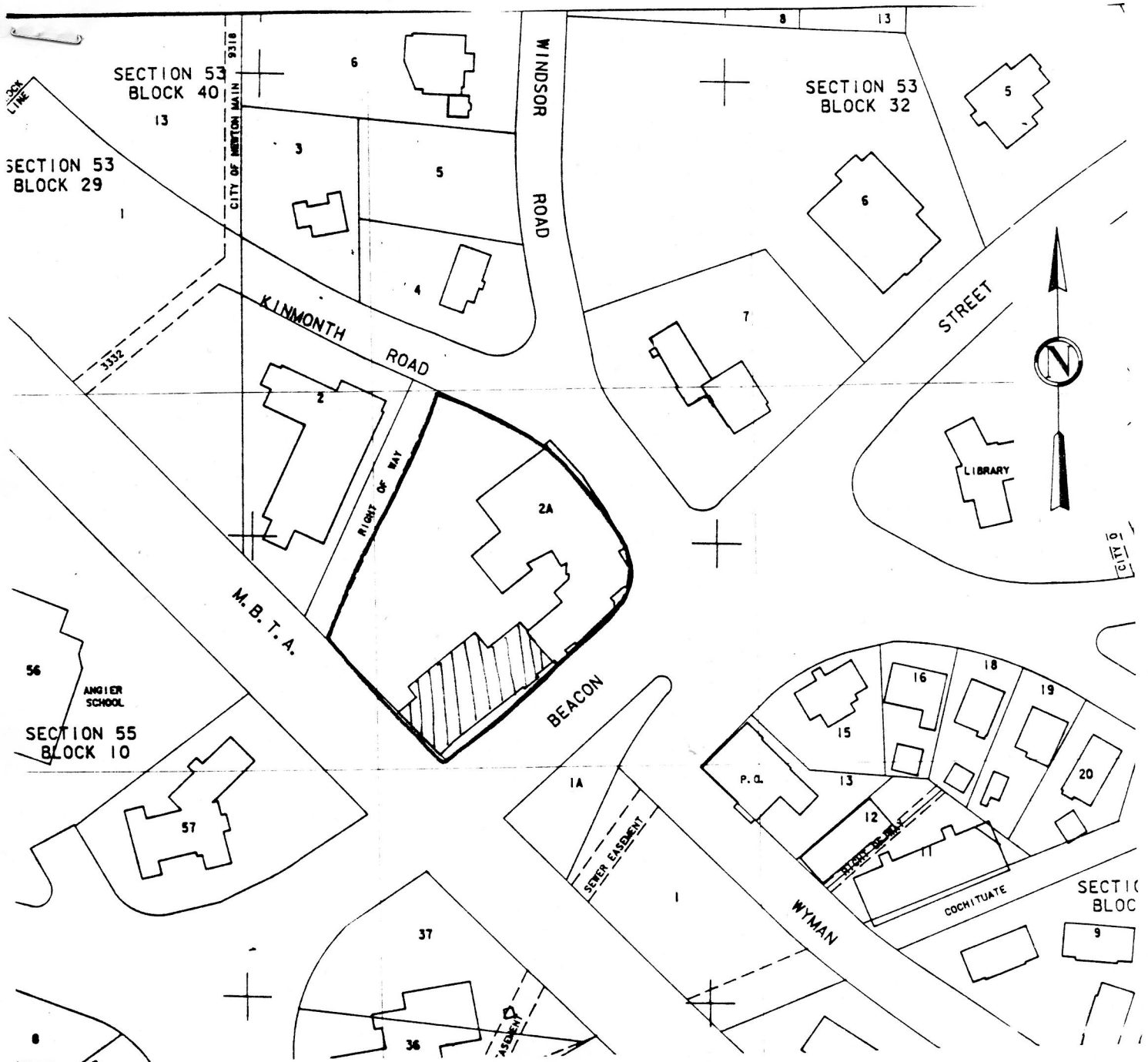
William C. Strong, a prominent local citizen who resided nearby at 48 Windsor Road, had this stylish commercial block built to serve the expanding population of the village which eventually became known as Waban. During the 1880s Strong was among those instrumental in bringing the Circuit Railroad through this area, and stimulating the suburban development of the village. Strong intended to profit from the construction of the Circuit Railroad, and laid out Windsor Road on Moffatt Hill, where he offered ample houselots for sale.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Atlas: 1907

City Directories: 1895, 1897.

American Architect & Building News. Oct. 31, 1896.



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.  
 1637-1651 Beacon Street, Waban  
 Strong's Block  
 53-29-2A



FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
224 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

NRIND  
NRMRVA NWT. 3741  
3741

Area <u>85 y</u>	Form no. <u>W 11</u>
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Waban

Address 1641-1649 Beacon Street

Historic Name Strong's Block

Original Commercial

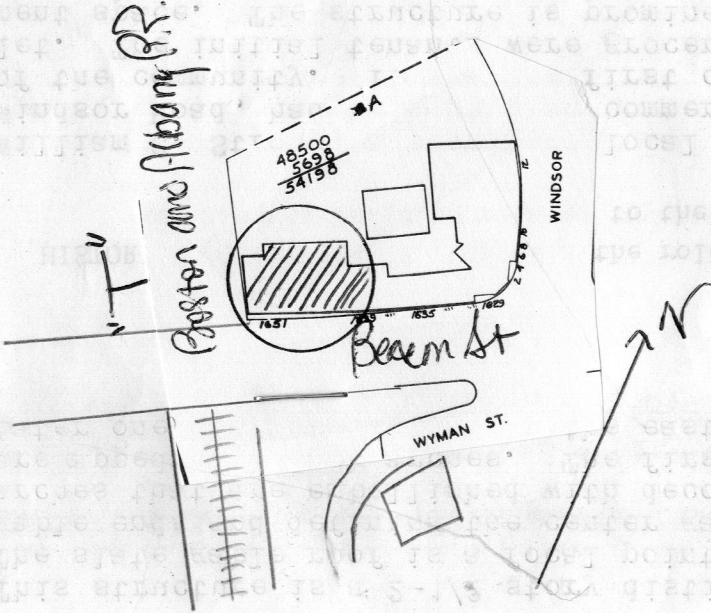
Present Same

Ownership:  Private individual  
 Private organization

Public

Original owner William C. Strong

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



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1896

Source Water Records

Style Dutch

Architect Lewis H. Bacon

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_

Major alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

1635-1639 addition - rebuilt 1922

1629-1633 Beacon addition - 1923

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. acreage 2 acres

Setting Located at the intersection of Beacon Street and Woodward St.

Waban's major 19th century thoroughfare, and adjacent to the railroad station.

Recorded by Deborah Shea

Organization Newton Historical Comm.

Date May, 1981

(Staple additional sheets here)

**SIGNIFICANCE**

**MAJOR** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CONTRIBUTING**   X  

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

This structure is a 2-1/2 story distinctive, Dutch Style, commercial block. The slate gable roof is a focal point with stepped parapets denoting the gable ends and defining the center gable. The center windows have round arches that are embellished with decorative brick, while flanking windows are capped with Jack arches. The first story storefronts have been altered. Later one story additions to the east elevation have kept the parapeted motif.

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

William C. Strong, a prominent local citizen, who resided nearby at 48 Windsor Road, had this stylish commercial block built to service the needs of the community. It was the first commercial block to be built in the hamlet. The initial tenants were grocers, with upper stories leased as apartment space. The structure is prominently situated on Beacon Street near its intersection with Woodward Street, and is located adjacent to the railroad tracks.

The structure was designed by Lewis H. Bacon of the firm Hill and Bacon. Both he and Clinton Hill were residents of Waban. An architectural rendering of the structure appears in the Oct. 31, 1896 issue of Architectural and Building News.

Criterion C is met by Strong's Block, which is one of the city's few remaining intact nineteenth century commercial blocks. It possesses integrity of design and location, and exhibits a high level of workmanship and materials.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

- Newton Atlas, 1907
- Newton City Directory: 1895, 1897
- Architecture and Building News Oct. 31, 1896