

FORM B - BUILDING

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
 80 Boylston Street  
 Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Assessor's number

70-394

USGS Quad

Marlborough

Area(s)

K

Form Number

207

Town Marlborough

Place (neighborhood or village) \_\_\_\_\_

Address 56 Warren Avenue

Historic Name Arthur Curtis House

Uses: Present Dwelling

Original Dwelling

Date of Construction 1890

Source Marlborough Enterprise

Style/Form Queen Anne

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation rubble, with granite-block corners

Wall/Trim asbestos shakes

Roof slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures \_\_\_\_\_

none

Major Alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

porch balustrade replaced

Condition fair/good

Moved [X] no [ ] yes Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

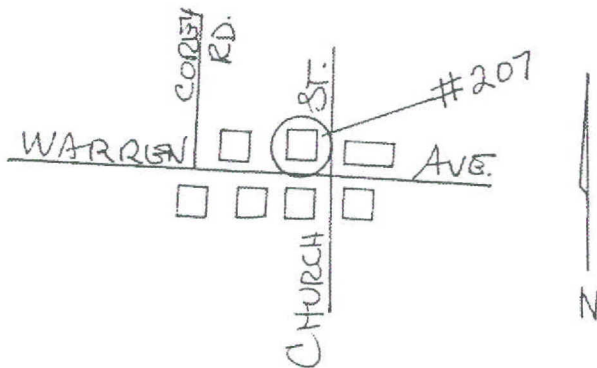
Setting At corner of Church Street, in

1890's-early-20th-century residential area.



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 Anne Forhes

Organization for Marlboro Hist. Comm.

Date 4/30/94

## BUILDING FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [ ] *see continuation sheet*

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

In spite of its twentieth-century siding, this house retains nearly all the components of a stylish Queen Anne residence of the 1890's. It is a tall, 2 1/2-story building of complex massing, with several projecting square and polygonal bays, and a two-story rear wing. The main roof is hipped; the bays are both hip-and gable-roofed, and one on the east side rises to an octagonal turret. The main entry is recessed under a southeast corner facade porch, where the Eastlarkian influence is evident in the square posts with incised lines and raised medallions. The porch also has pierced, sawcut brackets, and a shingled gable. The main door, typical of the 1890's, is a large glass-and-panel type. The windows are mainly two-over-two-sash, with molded surrounds, and lunettes appear in two gables. In spite of the siding change, patterned shingle remains in a small gable over the facade, and the major bay windows have diagonal- and vertical-board panels under the windows. Typical 1890's panels with lozenge and checkerboard patterns also articulate the walls.

The foundation here--rubble, with granite-block corners--is a type seen on several 1890's houses in the neighborhood.

### 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.*

While most of the early Marlborough shoe-manufacturers lived close to the factories in the Main and Pleasant Street areas, by the 1890's a later generation of industrialists and businessmen began to fill the area south of Hildreth Street with comfortable, stylish houses. This house was built for Arthur Curtis, son of shoe-manufacturer John Curtis. (See Form #113, Loring/Curtis House.) In 1889, after having operated for several years at other locations both for himself and others, John Curtis took charge of a new factory on lower Cotting Avenue belonging to the firm of Rice & Hutchins. His two sons, Arthur and Charles, were soon employed there as well, as Superintendent and cutting-room foreman. Their father died in 1896, and the two brothers continued with the business into the early twentieth century. When Rice & Hutchins closed in 1928, several Curtis family members purchased the Cotting Avenue factory, and formed their own corporation, the Curtis Shoe Company, there.

Charles lived nearby at #49 Warren Avenue, and Arthur lived here with his wife Emma, and their family.

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

Bigelow, Ella. Historical Reminiscences of the Early Times in Marlborough. 1910.  
Marlborough Directories.  
Hurd, D. Hamilton. History of Middlesex County, Mass. 1890.  
Marlborough Enterprise. 9/18/1890.

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