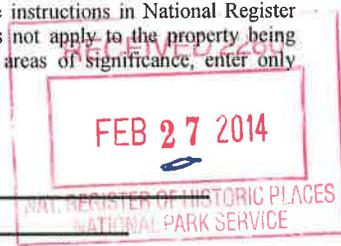


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Oliver House
Other names/site number: Deacon Ezekiel Oliver House
Name of related multiple property listing:
Wakefield MRA
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 58 Oak Street
City or town: Wakefield State: MA County: Middlesex
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
 A ___ B C ___ D

Brona Simon February 20, 2014
Signature of certifying official/Title: Brona Simon, SHPO Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official: _____ Date _____
Title : _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

For Edison H. Beall *4-15-14*
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
DOMESTIC/Multiple Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

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Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: Fieldstone; Walls: Wood; Roof: Asphalt

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Oliver House is a Federal-style, two-story, five-bay house that appears to date to the late 18th century and is located at 58 Oak Street in the Greenwood section of Wakefield, Middlesex County. The house is on a flat lot of less than one acre. The main block, which measures approximately 40 feet by 19 feet, faces south and is a two-story, five-bay structure with a center entry. A Beverly jog entrance extends from the west elevation, and another Beverly jog entrance extends from the east elevation, though the latter is partially obscured by a one-story porch added to the east facade. Separate east and west kitchen ells off the north (rear) elevation extend the asphalt-shingled, pitched roof of the main block to a steep saltbox form. The house is framed with hewn timbers, is clad in wood clapboards, and has a cut-granite, brick and concrete-parged stone foundation. Stud framing, evidence of nogging infill, and horizontal-plank exterior undersheathing were all exposed in 2006 when modern aluminum siding was removed and the underlying, deteriorated wood clapboards were replaced.

Narrative Description

House Exterior

The central bay of the symmetrical, south-facing, front elevation (Photo 1) is flanked by the more closely spaced, paired openings of the first and second and the fourth and fifth bays of the house. There are four modern brick steps leading up to a modern, reproduction board and batten door surrounded by composite fluted pilasters and topped by a five-light transom and an overhanging lintel. There are five windows on the second story and four windows on the first story of the south elevation. All are six-over-nine, double-hung replacement sash with window surrounds with a raised molded edge.¹ A molded cornice runs along the eaves, and cornerboards

¹ All windows, with the exception of one window in the east Beverly jog, were replaced between 1977-1978 by the present owner, replacing aluminum windows.

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frame the front façade. The two brick, interior chimneys located at the rear wall of the main block extend at different heights through the lower rear pitched roof of the main block.

The east elevation of the main block (Photo 2) includes single, centrally placed windows at the second story and the attic level. The second-story window has six-over-nine, double-hung replacement sash, and the attic-level window has six-over-six, double-hung replacement sash. The east elevation includes a cornice return at the southeast corner. The first stories of the east elevation of the main block and the south elevation of the east jog-kitchen ell are obscured by a closed porch added to the house after 1923. This closed porch (Photo 5) has a hipped roof with asphalt shingles. The porch has a bank of six windows of six-over-six, double-hung replacement sash on its east elevation. The south elevation has a central six-over-six window flanked by four-over-four windows. The exposed, south-facing, second-story elevation of the east jog includes a single six-over-six, double-hung replacement window. The east-facing elevation of the east jog-kitchen ell includes two six-over-six, double-hung replacement windows at the first story, and a double window at the second story, also with six-over-six, double-hung replacements.

The north, or rear, elevation of the main block (Photo 3) is largely obscured by three major rear appendages so that only a central window on the second story is visible. The west and east kitchen ells both appear on the building footprint of the 1875 map of Greenwood, and were probably present well before then.² The north elevation of the west kitchen ell includes two six-over-six, double-hung replacement windows (Photo 3). The east elevation of the ell includes a single six-over-six, double-hung replacement window on the second story. The center addition appears to have been added to the house between 1906 and 1923, and has a rough-cut fieldstone foundation³. This one-story center addition has a shed roof and includes a single six-over-nine, double-hung replacement window. Two modern, stone and brick steps lead to a door with a plain board surround that penetrates the eave line. The east kitchen ell includes a door at the east end of its north elevation. The door surround is framed with a raised, beaded molding. Flanking the door is a modern, 24-light, fixed window with a pitched overhang with asphalt shingles. The roof pitch of the west Beverly jog matches that of the main block, while the pitch of the roof of the east Beverly jog is slightly raised and offset from the roofline of the main block.

The west elevation of the main block includes single windows centrally aligned (Photo 4). The fenestration of the first two stories consists of six-over-nine, double-hung replacement sash, and the attic level displays a smaller six-over-six, double-hung replacement sash. A cornice return is visible on the southwest corner of this elevation. The one-bay-deep west Beverly jog, similar to a jog on the ca. 1833 Jonas Cowdrey House at 61 Prospect Street, Wakefield (WAK.323, NR1989), includes two six-over-six, double-hung replacement windows on its west elevation. The south elevation of this jog includes cornerboards and a six-over-six, double-hung replacement window on the second story. Two steps, one of stone and one of wood, lead to a four-paneled door with a door surround with raised molding.

² Map of Greenwood, 1875, Wakefield Historical Society Collection.

³ Map of 1909 and Sanborn Map of 1923, Wakefield Historical Society Collection.

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The building sits on a slight rise and is set eight feet back from the sidewalk. The property comprises 13,979 square feet (0.22 acre). The building is located in a residential neighborhood of single-family, early to mid-twentieth century homes. Its immediate neighborhood includes the Henry Savage House, (1895) at 52 Oak Street (WAK.163), a substantial Colonial Revival-Queen Anne residence listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The modest Ranch-style house at 54 Oak Street was built in 1955. To the rear of the building, Crosby Road includes mid-twentieth century Cape style residences built on the subdivision lots created in the 1940s. Two of the building's nearest neighbors are properties with a closely linked past. Across Crosby Road, members of the Oliver family built 68 Oak Street (WAK.166) in the early nineteenth century. The Griffin family built the residence opposite the Smith-Oliver House at 63 Oak Street in the late nineteenth century.

House Interior

The rear wall chimney-plan configuration, high first-story ceilings, and surviving Federal-period interior finishes all point to a late 18th- or early 19th-century construction date for the building. The main block of the building consists of two rooms separated by a central lobby entry with a winder stair to the second story. Rear-wall hearths heat the two first-story rooms and the chambers above within the main block. Separate leanto-roofed kitchens back onto each of the front rooms of the house, each serviced by a kitchen hearth with separate bake oven on the hearth face outside the firebox, a feature seen only on post Revolutionary-era houses. Separate, steep stairs in each kitchen lead to unheated chambers above. The remarkable survival of these and other features of the plan and configuration of the building reflect its adaptation and use over time by a variety of configurations of multi-generational families, multiple households, boarders, and/or servants or other live-in employed help. A connecting passage—the center addition—between the kitchens appears to be an early 20th-century alteration. Whether or not the original configuration of the building included a kitchen ell is not presently known; the present visibility of framing and other structural evidence of the building's evolution is very limited.

Cellar. A full, dry-laid, rough-faced granite foundation with subsequent mortar infill supports the main block of the building. A rough opening in the rear foundation wall provides access to a small, partially excavated crawlspace under the west kitchen. Remnants of whitewash finishes are evident on granite, brick, and hewn-beam surfaces. There is evidence of a former bulkhead entry—now filled in—on the east cellar wall. The 20th-century porch is located above the former bulkhead entry location. There are two brick-arched chimney bases set against the north cellar wall that support the east and west rear-wall chimneys. The base under the west chimney stack is seven feet long and four feet in depth, with a three-foot-diameter arch. The base under the east chimney stack is larger, at nine feet long by four feet in depth, with a four-foot-diameter arch. The east chimney base includes the partial remnants of an additional arch, indicating that this base may have originally been configured as a double arch of even greater length. The inequality of chimney-base sizes suggests that in its original configuration, the building may have accommodated a larger kitchen hearth in the East Parlor of the main block, or that the east chimney stack also served a kitchen hearth in an original East Kitchen ell.

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West Parlor. The first-story, west room in the main block is the best-finished room in the building. Front framing posts are cased but visibly articulated in the room. Wall surfaces are plaster with, low, horizontal, wide-board wainscoting. The fireplace consists of a shallow, brick-faced hearth, with a surround made up of a simple side panels, base and blocks, and a simple, molded shelf (Photo 6). There is no paneling on the hearth wall, just an extension of the low wainscoting.

East Parlor. The first-story, east room in the main block is also characterized by cased framing posts along the front wall, and low, horizontal, wide-board wainscoting. The brick-faced hearth has a two-step, molded trim surround with a shallow shelf. A door off this room leads to a modern bathroom installed in 1979 between the front parlors behind the winder entry stair.

West Kitchen. The kitchen backing on the West Parlor is characterized primarily by its large, brick-faced cooking hearth flanked by a beehive bake oven accessed through a hinged, cast-iron door set in a recessed opening on the front face of the hearth. The hearth has a simple surround and is topped by a shallow shelf. A small paneled door above the mantel opens to storage shelves (Photo 7). The east, partition wall of this room encloses a stairway up to the leanto chamber directly above.

East Kitchen. The kitchen backing on the East Parlor is similarly characterized by a large brick hearth, again with a beehive bake oven located next to the firebox on the front face of the hearth (Photo 8). Here the beehive opening is behind a raised panel door. A simple mantel shelf above the hearth opening is supported by ogee brackets. A small paneled door above the mantel opens to storage shelves. The East Kitchen is now open to the east exterior wall of the east jog of the building. A mid-20th-century remodeling of this room removed a north-south running partition wall that enclosed a passageway and an unheated pantry extending along what is now the eastern quarter of the room. Evidence on the second story indicates that this passageway, with direct access to an outside entry door, historically included a straight stair run leading to the leanto chamber above. The west, partition wall of the room encloses another stair run that serves this purpose. Remodelling has also exposed ceiling joists, which are spaced at 27 inches on center. Walls are plaster with low, horizontal, wide-board wainscoting. An early 20th-century center addition forms a short passage connector between the East and West Kitchens (Photo 9).

West Chamber. The West Chamber is minimally finished. Boxed, front-wall framing posts and the front plate are articulated, and walls are plaster with a wide baseboard. The small, shallow, brick-faced hearth has a simple surround and mantle shelf of flat boards.

East Chamber. The East Chamber is more ornate. The framing posts and front plate are also articulated, and a stepped, molded trim extends around the ceiling edges. The small, shallow, brick-faced hearth has a simple, molded surround and mantle shelf very similar in design to those in the East Parlor directly below. Walls are plaster with a wide baseboard.

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The West and East Chambers are connected by the front stair hall. Between them is also located a third Small Chamber accessed through a door from the East Chamber and from a very low door located on the first landing leading up from the front stair hall to the Attic. This unheated Small Chamber is lit by a single window on the rear wall of the main block.

Passageways that run between the chimney stacks and the exterior walls step down to small, finished, leanto chambers located above the kitchens. These unheated leanto chambers are not directly accessible to each other. The West Leanto Chamber is distinguished by boxed leanto rafters articulated in the ceiling, and a boxed cornerpost. The room's east partition wall separates a stair run that leads down to the West Kitchen. The East Leanto Chamber also has boxed leanto rafters, and shows evidence in the floorboards of a former stair that ran inside the east exterior wall to the kitchen below. Presently the west partition wall of the room separates a stair run that serves this function.

Modern wood paneling obscures much of the roof framing in the Attic, but hewn common rafters are visible.

Throughout the house, interior finishes that appear to be consistently of late 18th- and 19th- century origin survive together with later restoration efforts. The configurations of the East and West Kitchen hearths, with their beehive bake ovens located outside the fireboxes with their openings on the hearth face, are known to be features that did not appear before the last decades of the 18th century. Wide floorboards in the West Parlor and Kitchen and the East and West Chambers appear original. The paneling throughout the house is characterized by wide boards and simple molding. The wainscoting is constructed of two wide, horizontal boards and is topped with a dado and framed at the base with a baseboard molding. In the East Parlor, modern wallpaper was removed in 1980 to expose the original molding and wainscoting. A new floor with wide, room-length pine boards was installed in the East Parlor at this time. Interior doors are four-paneled of various vintages with no additional fluting or decoration.

In addition to the House, the property includes a Small Modern Wood Shed (noncontributing).

Archaeological Description

While no ancient native American sites are known on the Oliver House property, it is possible that sites are present. Twenty-two ancient sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile), most of which are located near ponds, lakes, and swamplands. Environmental characteristics of the property represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of ancient Native sites. The Oliver House is located on well-drained, level to moderately sloping topography, in close proximity to wetlands. Swamplands are located less than 1,000 feet northwest of the Oliver House. In general, however, the potential for locating significant ancient Native American resources on the nominated property is low. Given the small size of the lot (13,979 square feet/0.32 acres) any potential ancient cultural resources that may have been present were destroyed by the construction of the house, barns, outbuildings, privies, wells, and other utilities.

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A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources on the property. While the extant farmhouse represents only a small portion of the original 400+-acre farmstead, several types of archaeological resources may be present that survive in the area immediately surrounding the house. Additional historical research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may locate structural evidence of a mid 18th-century residence at or near the existing house indicated on 1750 and 1765 maps of the area. Construction features from the existing house may also survive. Structural evidence of barns, outbuildings, and archaeological evidence of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may survive that were associated with the Oliver House and the earlier residence that may have been located on the property. Outbuildings associated with the Oliver House occupation may be related to both domestic and industrial functions (shoemaking, agriculture).

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Community Planning and Development

Social History

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1790-1964

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Criteria Statement

The Oliver House, Wakefield, fulfils National Register Criteria A and C on the local level. Located at 58 Oak Street in the town's Greenwood section, the property retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association with the early development of South Reading, later Wakefield. It is significant at the local level and has a period of significance extending from the approximate date of its construction ca. 1790 to 1963, the fifty-year cutoff for significance for National Register purposes. The present nomination is considered an amendment to the Wakefield Multiple Resource area (NR 1989).

The Oliver House, once part of a vast and extensive farm, survives today on a 13,979-square-foot lot in a suburban section of the town of Wakefield, about 1.5 miles from the town center. Other historic residences that also held 19th century associations with the Oliver family are located nearby, but are interspersed with considerable mid to late 20th century residential development. A former farmhouse whose outbuildings are no longer extant, the property was used by residents in a variety of occupations, including, during the 19th century, several cordwainers, a rattan worker, a piano tuner, and, in the 20th century, shoe-factory workers. For much of its history, the house has served as a multifamily residence equipped with two kitchens, chimneys, and cooking spaces for extended family members or boarders.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Under Criterion A, the Oliver House reflects the town's evolution from dispersed agricultural pursuits in the 18th and early 19th centuries, to industrial activity in the 19th and early 20th centuries (and in particular, shoemaking), to 20th century suburban residential development. The property holds strong associations with several generations of the Oliver family. The occupations of many of the house's residents reflect the community's evolution.

Under Criterion C, the Oliver House has considerable architectural significance as a well-preserved and rare local example of late 18th and early 19th century domestic architecture, particularly for its use as a two-family residence as early as ca. 1814. This use is reflected in its two one-bay-deep Beverly jogs and double kitchens, each with a large fireplace and bake oven.

Historical Narrative

The land on which the Oliver House stands was, from the late 17th through the 18th centuries, part of the extensive holdings of the Smith family in what was earliest settled, in 1639, as the town of Redding, part of which would later become the town of Wakefield. By 1647, 32 homesteads had been established in Redding. One of these belonged to Francis Smith, an early emigrant to

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Massachusetts, probably as part of Governor Winthrop's Massachusetts Bay Company. Smith was a proprietor in Watertown by 1632, moving to Reading in 1646, and purchasing the extensive farmlands of Edward Howell, which included the site of the nominated property. Smith made his home east of the present Crystal Lake (and west of the nominated property), which was formerly named after him, bearing the name "Smith's Pond" until well into the nineteenth century. Francis Smith and his wife Alice had numerous children, and among their descendants were many local figures, including Eliza Bancroft Wakefield (b. 1805–d. 1877), the wife of Cyrus Wakefield, the manufacturer of rattan furnishings for whom the town was renamed in 1868 and one of its wealthiest citizens.

Another descendant was James Smith, great-great-grandson of Francis and Alice Smith., Born in 1690, James Smith and his wife Abigail had four daughters and one son. Although visual analysis is to the contrary, early town historian Lilley Eaton, in the 1874 book *A Genealogical History of Wakefield, Reading and North Reading*, identified James as the owner and builder of this house. Indeed, a house bearing the name of "James Smith" in the location of this house appears on two 18th-century maps of Reading: one map showing *South Reading As It Was*, "being a copy of an old map ... drawn in 1750" (date of copy unknown) and the other drawn in 1765. The house shown on both maps may have been an earlier residence at or near the location of the nominated property, since the architectural evidence of the Oliver House does not support this construction period but rather, a very late 18th or early 19th century period of construction (see below; among the factors pointing to the later date are the house's two chimneys serving kitchen fireplaces with ovens beside the fireboxes at the front face of the hearth, a late 18th/early 19th century innovation).

Most likely, James Smith owned this land, on which another, earlier house may have once stood. After Smith's death in 1778, the property passed to his son, also named James (b. 1729/1730), who served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War. This second James Smith apparently sold the property, then 40 acres, in the early 1780s, to Thomas Brown, a member of another locally prominent family; then, it went through a rapid succession of owners: by 1785, to Jabez Carter (1748-1794), a native of Woburn; and after Carter's death, the property was sold to Herbert Richardson in 1795. Very little is known about Jabez Carter and Herbert Richardson with the exception of their Revolutionary War records. Jabez Carter answered the alarm of April 19, 1775, as part of John Walton's Company of First Parish (now Wakefield), and then served from March 1777 to March 1780 in Col. Thomas Nixon's Sixth Massachusetts regiment. Herbert Richardson had served as a private in Captain Nathan Sergeant's company of guards. In 1797, only two years after the purchase of this property, Richardson sold his holdings to William Williams (ca. 1768-1813).

While the property at 58 Oak Street is traditionally thought locally to have been built in the mid 18th century, physical evidence, as noted above, suggests that it is most likely a very well-preserved late 18th- or early 19th-century house. Despite the fact that the land on which the house stands was first owned, for almost a century, by members of the Smith family, the nominated house was possibly built by one of its late 18th-century property owners—Jabez Carter, Herbert Richardson, or William Williams, the buyer in 1797. Although future documentary research may confirm one or another individual as the builder of the nominated property, the likeliest may

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be Williams, a native of nearby Malden, who lived on the property for sixteen years. Williams first resided at this property with his first wife Susanna (Emerson), whom he married in 1793 and with whom he had three children; after her death, he married Hannah Waitt, of Malden. William and Hannah Williams had five more children. Williams, described in the deed as a cordwainer, died intestate in 1813, leaving his wife and the eight children, all under the age of 17.

By the time of Williams' death, South Reading (now Wakefield) had separated from the larger town of Reading (in 1812). Reading had grown little during the 18th century, but population expansion and political and financial concerns led to a division into three separate communities by the early 19th century. The area in which the nominated property is located became formally incorporated as South Reading in 1812. The South Reading village center and its area of most intense development was concentrated a mile and a half north of the property's site. The population upon incorporation was about 800 individuals, living in an estimated 125 widely scattered dwellinghouses. Although it soon supported three churches (Congregational, Baptist, and Universalist), an academy, and, by 1834, a Town House, the community was at first small, isolated, and rural in character. There was no post office within the village; the stage from Boston arrived only infrequently. In 1820, South Reading's population stood at approximately 1,000; it had reached 1,311 by 1830, and 1,517 by 1840. Outside the village center, the town was characterized by dispersed farmsteads, of which the nominated property was one. At the time of Williams' ownership, a lane ran east from Main Street and apparently, terminated at the Williams farm.

After the death of William Williams, the bulk of his land, with the exception of the widow's portion, was sold to Ezekiel Oliver in 1814. It is likely that the widow retained ownership of at least part of the house until her own death. With eight children under the age of 17, she may have chosen to rent or share a portion of her house in order to make ends meet. Indeed, it is likely that two families lived in the house, as evidenced by the two Beverly jog entrances extending on the east and west sides of the house and its two kitchen ells. The house has two first-floor rooms that would have functioned as kitchens, both with beehive bake ovens beside the fireboxes on the north-facing fireplaces. With the presence of the two jogs, and with two separate staircases, two families with totally distinct households could easily have shared the house. It is quite likely that the additions date to the period between 1814 and 1832, when Oliver purchased the remaining portion of the Williams' estate from Hannah Williams' heirs, Hannah having died in 1831 at the age of 56. The house appears to have been used by multiple families, or multiple branches of the same family, for much of the next 150 years.

While agriculture remained an important activity in early to mid 19th century South Reading, the economy increasingly focused on manufacturing activities, with shoemaking the principal industry. Small individual shops, mainly "ten footers," were located throughout the town, and shoemaking was practiced by individual cobblers and cordwainers, the latter being the makers of finer shoes and boots. These activities generally took place in small shoeshops located in the yard or in one of the outbuildings of local farms. Shoemaking at first provided extra income for farm families, particularly in the wintertime, but then became the primary occupation. In both the federal census of 1850, the first to identify all family members and their occupations, and the 1860 census, many South Reading residents, including members of the Oliver family, were

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identified as cordwainers. South Reading's first known shoe factory for producing shoes on a larger scale was that of Thomas Emerson, begun in 1805. By 1832, local shoe production employed 350 men and 100 women; the annual output of both factories and individual producers was valued at \$225,000.

With the Olivers' ownership, the lane east from Main Street to the house became known as Oliver's Lane. The Oliver family apparently prospered on the property. Ezekiel Oliver and his wife Sarah (Green) raised 10 children, and a number of these children eventually purchased large tracts nearby. Ezekiel Oliver became a deacon at the First Parish Congregational Church and also served on the town's School Committee. Oliver was both a farmer and a shoemaker, and he was described in the deeds of both 1814 and 1833 as a cordwainer. By 1850, census records list several of Oliver's children as shoemakers. The 1850 records show the 58 Oak Street occupants as: Ezekiel Oliver, farmer; his wife Sarah; son David B. Oliver (age 17), shoemaker; daughter Eliza Oliver (age 20); and Heman Sturtevant, also a shoemaker (age 30), and his wife Mary (age 27). Mary Sturtevant may have been another Oliver daughter. One of the farm's outbuildings probably served as a shoeshop. The property was valued at the time at \$4,000, and had one horse and three cows, valued together at \$225. Ezekiel's son James, also a shoemaker, and his family took up tenancy in the adjacent house that now has the address of 68 Oak Street. Also in the 1850 census, yet another son, Henry, age 24, was listed as a shoemaker, living elsewhere in South Reading.

The arrival of the Boston and Maine Railroad in South Reading in 1845 was a major factor in transforming the community of dispersed farms and small-scale industries. In the early 1850s, the entrepreneur Cyrus Wakefield moved his burgeoning rattan business into South Reading. Initially, his business focused on reeds for hoop skirts, but it quickly expanded to all manner of rattan products, manufactured in a vast factory complex that employed some 1,000 workers in 1875. With its success came a series of other industries, including the Boston & Maine Foundry, also owned by Cyrus Wakefield. By 1855, the population of the town of South Reading reached 2,758. With the coming of the railroad, and the strengthening of local industries, more streets and roads were established. Oliver's Lane was extended and renamed Oak Street, and formally laid out as a town road in 1847.

By 1860, tax rolls show that Ezekiel Oliver's house was valued at \$700; he also had a barn, a shop (likely a shoe shop), and various other unspecified outbuildings. James Oliver's adjacent house at 68 Oak Street also included a barn, a shop, and more. While Ezekiel was listed on the 1860 federal census as a cordwainer, his son David B., now 26 and dwelling with his parents, was a shoe manufacturer. The other Oliver sons had properties about a half mile away on Nahant Road at that time, as well as a carting business. Two properties identified with the Oliver family still stand on Nahant Road: 3 Old Nahant Road (the John Smith/Oliver House of ca. 1792; WAK.151) and 42 Old Nahant Road (the Benjamin Oliver House of ca. 1848; WAK.152). An 1857 map shows a shoe shop as well as a house at the latter location (although the house survives today, the shoe shop is no longer standing).

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The census of 1860 also showed new tenants in the nominated property, still owned by Ezekiel Oliver. Woodbury Griffin, a cordwainer and native of Annisquam in Gloucester, had married Ezekiel and Sarah's daughter, Eliza Oliver. Woodbury, Eliza, and their small son are listed in the 1860 census as living at the nominated property, along with Ezekiel and Sarah Oliver and their son David B. And other family members were also listed at the same location. Joseph Howe, himself a cordwainer, had also married an Oliver daughter, Sarah, and they too appear to have been living in the house at the time of the 1860 census, along with their children, Francis (cordwainer), age 20, Lucy (seamstress), William, Marie, Sarah, and Frank (all attending school), along with housemaid Lizzie Mitchell, age 20, from Maine. Heman Sturtevant and his wife Mary had moved elsewhere. In all, 15 individuals appear to have been living in the nominated property at the time of the 1860 census. Once again, the presence of two kitchens eased the use of the house by several families.

The shoemaking industry on both a small and large scale was affected by the Civil War. Prior to the war, southern markets were a primary source for sale of inexpensive northern-made shoes, including those from South Reading. The Civil War caused a dramatic cutback in the volume of products being shipped, and the community's smaller-scale shoe makers never recovered, although larger factories continued to produce shoes.

South Reading sent its share of soldiers to fight in the War. James Oliver, the son of Deacon Ezekiel, served in Company E, 16th Regiment, during the Civil War, promoted to First Lieutenant by 1862. James' son Alfred also served during the war, as one of the "100 Days Men," short-time Union volunteer regiments who joined up during the height of the hostilities. Upon the conclusion of the war, the shoe industry rebounded; at one point during the 1860s, there were twelve large shoe factories in town, as well as numerous small-scale shops.

In 1865, Ezekiel Oliver died; soon after, Woodbury Griffin purchased two acres, including the house and barns, for \$800. In the 1870 census, ten individuals lived in the house: Woodbury, now identified as a piano tuner, Eliza, their four school-age children (William, Elmer, Minnie, and Addie), Sarah Oliver, then aged 72, and three members of the Weston family, Daniel (a reed filer, presumably at the Wakefield rattan factory—prior to Cyrus Wakefield's innovations, reeds, the inner core of rattan, were discarded), his wife Angie, and baby Frederic. The Howe family had relocated to nearby Stoneham.

In the years after the Civil War, the character of the town was changing. Cyrus Wakefield remained an important part of the economic development of the town that was renamed in his honor in 1868, after he donated a new Town Hall. He built two important business blocks in the center of town, and started a bank, a real estate company and other ventures. Gas lighting came to important streets in the 1860s; household water service arrived in 1883. The Greenwood area in which 58 Oak Street is located, about 1 ½ miles south of the town center, underwent major changes as the farmlands disappeared in favor of suburban neighborhoods serviced by both the railroad and the streetcar lines that came to the area in 1894.

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The valuation of Woodbury Griffin's house stayed stable through the 1870s and 1880s. He maintained 1.5 acres throughout his lifetime, but his occupation changed—initially a cordwainer, he was a piano tuner in the 1870 census, and an organ tuner in the 1880 accounting. His family built a second house at 63 Oak Street, across the street from 58 Oak Street, where Woodbury Griffin's son W. Eugene Griffin, listed as an organ tuner and music teacher, raised his family and also boarded music students. Census records show three daughters and two sons-in-law living with their widowed father, Woodbury Griffin, in the nominated property in 1900: daughter Effie, a vocalist, newly married daughter Minni Rialon and her husband Walton, a paint-store clerk, and third daughter Addie Rena Hawkesworth and her husband of three years, Harry, a civil engineer. No young children were part of the household at the time. After Woodbury Griffin's death in 1904, and W. Eugene's death in 1917, the house at 58 Oak Street remained in the hands of the Griffin family, which rented space to two families in the years from 1917 through 1926. William Reynolds, a clerk at the Evans Shoe factory in Wakefield, was a steady boarder, with other occupants varying.

The Oliver House saw some changes in the early 20th century. An historic photo, undated but likely from the period (see Fig. 1), shows a double-leafed front entry door, 2/2 windows, a sunporch enclosed by multipane sash windows, and what appears to be asbestos shingle siding (later replaced by aluminum siding). At some point in the early 20th century, a passage was added at the rear of the building, joining the two kitchens in the Beverly jobs. In 1927, the heirs of Woodbury Griffin sold the house to William B. Savary, a carpenter from Somerville. Savary, his wife and his daughter, Gertrude Decker, and her husband Norman Decker, moved into the house. It is likely that the house's east-side sunporch was added during the Savary family's ownership. William Savary died in 1931, but the property would remain exclusively in Savary family ownership until 1961, although for a two-year period, 1942-1943, the house was rented. While the house itself saw some alteration in the early to mid 20th century, the character of the property changed most when its outbuildings were removed at an unknown date. In 1940, a profound change came to the neighborhood when a subdivision plan, drawn up in 1927, was put into effect. This subdivision plan created Crosby Road just to the east of the nominated property and diminished the 58 Oak Street lot from 1.5 acres to 17,103 square feet. With the construction of the subdivision and about a dozen modest 1 1/2 -story Cape-style houses immediately behind the Oliver House, the area became far more suburban in character.

Gertrude Decker sold the property in 1961 to Louise E. Lake of Lynnfield and Edith G. Mitchell of Wakefield. During their five years of ownership, Lake and Mitchell ran a pre-school in the house. ("My Weekly Reader" was still being delivered to the "Wakefield Kindergarten" at 58 Oak Street in 1976 when the present owner took up residence there.) In 1966, the property was re-purchased by Gertrude Decker, who owned it until her death in 1970. Francis and Emma Almeida, who owned the adjacent 54 Oak Street, purchased the property in 1970, and gave it as a gift to their son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Joie Almeida. During this period, the lot lines associated with the property were redrawn to its current 13,979 square feet (.22 acres). At around the same time, aluminum siding was installed.

The property was sold to Gene Moulton and Michael Lambourne in 1976. Gene Moulton purchased Lambourne's share in 2008 and is the present owner.

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Architectural Significance

The Oliver House possesses considerable design significance, and is a well-preserved, rare surviving local example of a late 18th-century dwellinghouse that was reconfigured and expanded to function as a multi-household residence during most of its history in the 19th and 20th centuries. Facing south, the house is a fine example of a two-story, five-bay, center-entry dwelling with a side-gable roof, saltbox form and Beverly jogs extending to the east and west. The building has a hewn timber frame with vertical studs and horizontal plank undersheathing; it is presently sheathed with clapboards and framed by narrow cornerboards, and there is a shallow cornice return marking the gable ends. Surviving features reflecting its multi-household use include the two separate, early 19th-century kitchens, with large hearths and bake ovens, separate rear stairways leading to the upper story rooms, and separate Beverly jog entries on the side elevations of the building. The interior includes many Federal-period details, including fireplace mantels, bake ovens beside the fireboxes in the kitchens, a horizontal dado, and four-panel doors.

Significant spaces, features, and materials remain from throughout the period of significance and reflect the house's evolution from the late 18th to the mid 20th century. The significance of the house is complemented by its location on an important street in the Greenwood section of Wakefield. The late 18th and early 19th centuries in Wakefield saw the construction of a number of symmetrical, five-bay, gable-roofed residences, of which the Oliver House is a well-preserved example. Of the eleven 18th-century farmhouses extant within the Town of Wakefield, the Oliver House is one of the least altered examples.

The house likely originated in the last decade of the 18th century as a two-story, five-bay house. Typically, the Federal-period plan consisted of two large front rooms flanking a central lobby, and heated by hearths located on the north/rear wall of each room. Evidence of the chimney bases in the cellar suggests that the original plan accommodated a kitchen hearth in the east room or in an ell behind the east room. Beverly jog additions made on both sides of the house would have enabled the house to easily serve two families; these changes may have occurred during the widow Hannah Waitt Williams' tenancy (1814 – 1833). Only one other house in Wakefield, the Michael Sweetser House, 15 Nahant Street (WAK.147, NR1989), is known to have this feature.

Since the close of the period of significance, no significant additions were made to the house, but the owners have endeavored to restore the original appearance of the structure. During the 1970s, the aluminum replacement windows were replaced by wooden windows; the aluminum siding was removed in 2006, revealing wooden clapboards that were repaired or replaced.

The building was not included in the 1989 Wakefield Multiple Resource Area; the present nomination reflects the care with which the house has been restored and demonstrates its architectural and historical significance as a rare survivor in Wakefield.

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Archaeological Significance

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important detailed information to compliment the historical significance of the Oliver House as indicated through documentary and architectural resources. The analysis of structural evidence and construction features from the Oliver House, and the potential mid 18th-century house that preceded it may contribute important evidence related to Wakefield's 18th- and early 19th-century settlement and agricultural history. Structural evidence of outbuildings and detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may also contribute to the above analysis and the development of industrial activity on the Oliver farm and in Wakefield during the 19th century and possibly earlier. Important information may exist that defines the level of technology used in shoemaking, the relationship between agriculture and shoemaking activities, and the role of cottage industry-level shoe production and larger factory-type shoe manufacture. The detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-related features may also contribute information related to the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of the Oliver House's inhabitants, especially members of the Oliver family for several generations. Mapping of the Oliver House and its barn(s), outbuildings, and occupational-related features may contribute important information related to the layout of 18th- and 19th-century farmsteads, domestic architecture, and the early 19th-century use of the property as a two family residence.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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- Massachusetts Historical Commission. "MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report, WAKEFIELD," 1980.
- Merrill, Morrison, "Wakefield's Old Houses," 1951.
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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): WAK.165

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10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 42.486047 | Longitude: -71.062157 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 19 | Easting: 330520 | Northing: 4705804 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries for the nominated property are the current lot lines for parcel 23-256-053 at the northwest corner of Oak and Crosby Streets, the parcel of 13,979 square feet presently associated with the Oliver House.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the nominated property reflect the subdivision of the Oliver House property over time. Once part of a large farm tract, the property of the Oliver family was reduced to 1.5 acres by the turn of the 20th century and 17,103 square feet by 1927. It became its present size, 13,979 square feet, in 1970. The property consists only of the historic house and a noncontributing shed, any farm outbuildings having been demolished by the early 20th century. The property faces south on Oak Street and is bounded on the east by Crosby Road, and on the north by the Crosby Road subdivision created ca. 1927 and built in the 1940s. The Henry Savage House at 52 Oak Street (NR1986, WAK.163), a substantial Queen Anne/Colonial Revival-style residence, lies two lots to the west, and the 19th century Oliver family-built house at 68 Oak Street (WAK.166) is two lots to the east, but the neighborhood is largely 20th century residential properties.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Michael Steinitz, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, and Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, with Nancy Bertrand, Wakefield Historical Commission

organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission

street & number: 220 Morrissey Blvd.

city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125

e-mail: betsy.friedberg@state.ma.us

telephone: 617-727-8470

date: February, 2014

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Oliver House

City or Vicinity: Wakefield

County: Middlesex

State: MA

Photographer: Wakefield Historical Commission *
Michael Steinitz, MHC **

Date Photographed: various

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 14. South elevation, 2012 *
- 2 of 14 West, South elevations with Beverly jog, 2008 *.
- 3 of 14 North elevation with East kitchen ell, center addition, West kitchen ell, 2008 *
- 4 of 14 East elevation with Beverly jog, 2010 *
- 5 of 14 Historic photo of South and East elevations with Porch addition, mid 20th century *
- 6 of 14 West parlor hearth and surround, 2008 *
- 7 of 14 West kitchen hearth, surround, and beehive opening, 2008 *.
- 8 of 14 East kitchen hearth and surround, 2012 *
- 9 of 14 Connector between east and west kitchens, 2008 *
- 10 of 14 West chamber hearth, surround, 2013 **
- 11 of 14 East chamber, detail, 2013 **
- 12 of 14 East chamber, hearth and surround, 2013 **

- 13 of 14 2nd story hall chamber, stair, 2013 **
- 14 of 14 Front attic stair landing, 2013 **

Figure 1 Oliver House ca. 1900. (Courtesy of Nancy Bertrand, Wakefield Historic Commission)

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Figure



Figure 1 Oliver House, ca. 1900 (Courtesy of Nancy Bertrand, Wakefield Historic Commission)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



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