

AREA	FORM NO.
	70-1

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108



City Belmont  
 Address 981 Concord Avenue  
 Historic Name Josiah Shattuck House

Present Private residence  
 Original Private residence

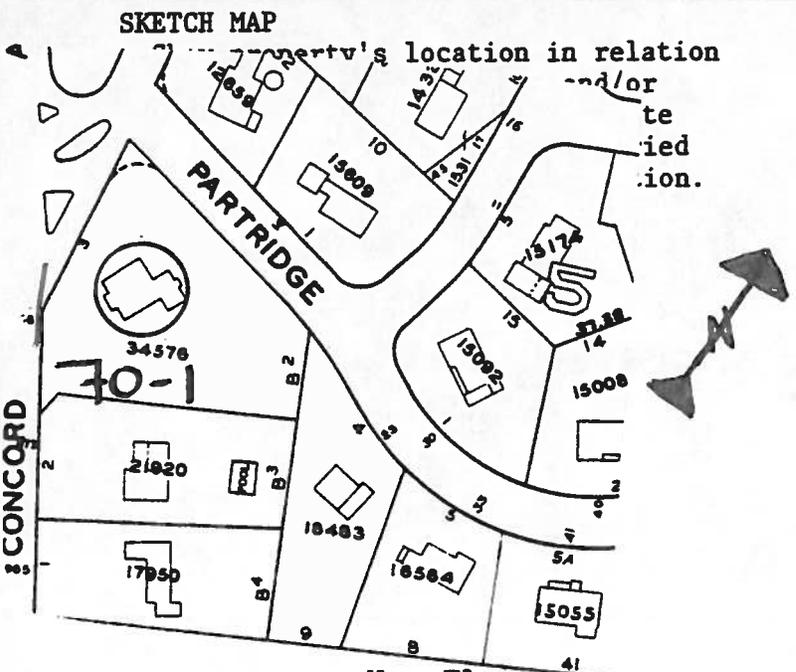
DESCRIPTION:  
 Date c. 1744  
 Source French and Betts

Style Georgian  
 Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboard  
 Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_

Major alterations (with dates) 1805 -  
"Updating" of the interior of the  
front bedrooms and parlors to the  
Federal Style.

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approx. acreage 1 1/2 acres

Setting maintains rural setting in the  
front overlooking Rock Meadow and  
Concord Avenue with real estate  
development on other three sides.



Recorded by Kay Flynn  
 Organization Boston University  
 Date October, 1982

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

One of the few extant houses of the mid-18th century in Belmont reflecting intact vernacular Georgian architecture.

A five-bay, two-story symmetrical house consisting of four square rooms per floor - two on each side of the center hall. The distinguishing features of an early Georgian are the two chimneys in the partitions between the front and rear rooms and windows of 12 over 12 lights. A service room to the side-rear (L-plan) is served by its own chimney. (Continued)

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

The Josiah Shattuck House is historically significant to Belmont and reflects transitions in local economy and industry through its varied use as a farm, market-dairy, tavern, again market-dairy, and finally suburban house.

Josiah Shattuck was a grandson of Doctor Philip Shattuck, prominent colonial physician and leader in early Watertown affairs. When Josiah was married in 1744, he was given a section of the doctor's land - inherited by his father, Benjamin. The date of the house is attributed to 1744 on the basis of its architectural characteristics and the fact that it would have been built, out of custom, just prior to his marriage.

Josiah was a prosperous farmer and butcher. He was the husband of two wives and father of four children. The youngest, Susannah Shattuck, was thirteen when she met Joshua Kendall, an itinerant shoemaker who worked on the farm one winter, and married him on April 26, 1770. Between 1771 and 1796, she had ten children.

In 1780, the house was on the Waltham, Menotomy line (Menotomy was the northwest precinct of Cambridge), and was considered a part of Waltham until the town of Belmont was incorporated.

Susannah Shattuck Kendall inherited the homestead and Joshua became a dairy farmer and businessman supplying milk for the Boston market. He  
(Continued)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Baldwin, Frances B., From Pequossette Plantation to the Town of Belmont, MA - 1630-1953.

French, Frank E., "The Josiah Shattuck House - 981 Concord Avenue", Belmont Citizen, July 19 and 26, 1973.

Sampler on the wall of the Belmont Room, Belmont Public Library.

Shattuck Family File, Belmont Room, Belmont Public Library.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Belmont	Form No: 70-1
Property Name: 981 Concord Avenue	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Continued):

In 1805 the two front bedrooms and parlors were "updated" to the early Federal Period. (See Historical Significance for reason.) The summer beams were removed, making higher ceilings with decorative Federal cornices and moldings. The fireplace mantels and moldings were also altered to the Federal style.

The two rear rooms on each floor are intact and reflect the original Georgian architecture: wide brick hearths, summer beams, 15" and 16" floor boards, hand-forged hinges, bee-hive oven and shoulder corner posts.

The exterior has been sensitively maintained with the clapboarding stained a dark brown. The enclosed front porch was added at a later date.

The Josiah Shattuck House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials workmanship and association with two periods - the Georgian exterior and rear and the Federal front interior "updating". Because the house embodies these distinctive characteristics, it meets Criteria C of the National Register of Historic Places standards.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Continued):

also invested in the Concord Turnpike which was to pass in front of his house. Family memoirs reveal that the front section of the house was remodeled in 1805. Joshua may have opened a tavern, but Wellington Hill (now Belmont Hill) was so steep for wagons and stage coaches that the enterprise was never a financial success.

Eventually, the property passed to Joshua's grandson, Adolphus Brown, who had nine children and carried on a successful dairy business. The 1853 map of Belmont shows the house was Adolphus Brown's and had 30 acres surrounding the homestead. Adolphus was a prominent resident of the new town of Belmont and served on the committee for the 2nd Strawberry Festival and was a member of the Belmont Farmer's Club. His son Edward Adolphus Brown ran a boarding stable on the farm which was near the Highland Stock Farm and Race Track.

In 1894 the house passed to Edward Adolphus Brown and has been in the Fillebrown and Brown families up to the 1940's - Miss Mary L. Fillebrown, daughter of Emma Brown and Oliver H. Fillebrown and sister of Warren and Emily was the last family member to occupy the Josiah Shattuck house.

The long association with the lives of the Shattuck - Brown - Fillebrowns of Belmont and Waltham, this house is significant to and a reflection of the development patterns of the town and thus meets Criteria B of the standards for evaluation of the National Register of Historic Places.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom