

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA <u>Y</u>	FORM NO. <u>20-1</u>
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108



Belmont

Address 153 Watson Road

Historic Name Bright House

Present single family residence

Original farmhouse

DESCRIPTION:

1874

Source Betts, Streets, p 121

Style late greek revival

Architect NA

Exterior wall fabric wood clapboard

Outbuildings garage

Major alterations (with dates) _____

side porch wing, probably early 20th

Moved from Bright Street Date 1929

Approx. acreage less than 1/2 acre

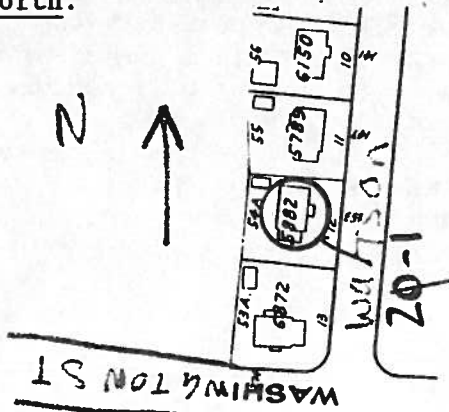
Setting Set in a residential neighborhood

of closely spaced early 20th century

houses

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Nora Lucas

Recorded by _____

Organization Boston University

Date November 1982

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The Bright House (BEL-82-18-30-30A) is a well-preserved example of a Greek Revival farmhouse, quite rare for Belmont.

It is a simple, five-bay center entry gable roofed house, with returns at eaves, side chimneys, a simple rectangular fanlit door, and corner paneled pilasters.

A side enclosed porch wing is probably of later date.

Although it is nearly intact, the Bright House's architectural significance is diminished by its movement to this site in 1929.

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

The Bright House was built by Frederick Bright in 1874, on Bright Street and moved to this area in 1929. Early settlers in Boston, family members were leaders in the ice industry and town affairs as well as large scale market gardeners.

Frederick was a descendant of Henry Bright, Jr., who settled in Belmont (then Watertown) in 1630 at the corner of Belmont and School Streets. His descendants increased their land holdings in Belmont, becoming successful market gardeners, selling produce in the Boston Markets. They were also the first to cut ice for the Boston Market. For further family history see Form _____.

Frederick Bright, the builder of this house, was Selectman in 1867-8 and a successful market gardener, residing in the house until his death in 1909.

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

Betts, pp. 121, 188.