

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
	52-5



Belmont
 Address 233 Prospect Street
 Historic Name George Prentiss II House

Present Private residence
 Original Private residence

DESCRIPTION:
1809

George Betts and Baldwin and French

Style Federal

Architect/Builder George Prentiss

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings _____

Major alterations (with dates) _____

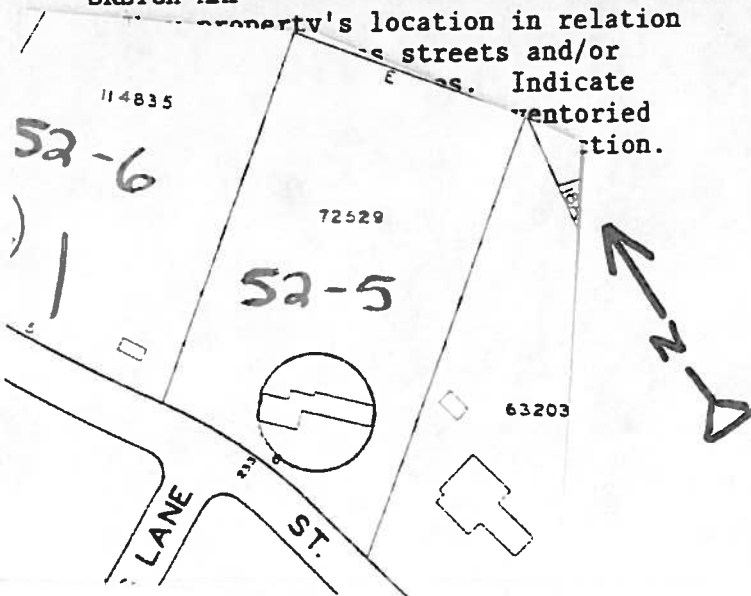
Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 5 acres

Setting facing south on a site with few trees and on an old transportation route - Prospect Street.

SKETCH MAP

property's location in relation to streets and/or easements. Indicate inventoried location.



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 early 19th century in Belmont - 1809 - reflecting intact vernacular Federal architecture.

The Prentiss II House has a 2-story, 5-bay facade and a low-gabled roof which are the basic characteristics of the Federal Style. Its distinguishing features are a central entry with a modestly-paneled door surround, sash-shuttered windows with 9 over 6 lights, and low, twin chimneys with fireplaces between front and rear rooms. It is unusual in its narrow, 1-cell depth. (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 "old" Prentiss House, built in 1740 and razed in 1929, was the first house on Belmont Hill and marked "the end of the trail, as Prospect was laid out to Winter Street but was not much travelled."¹ The house in 1834 was sold to Mansur W. Marsh (See Inventory Form # 52-6 of Prentiss-Marsh Cider Mill), and was the house to which women and children fled on April 19, 1775.

George Prentiss II built the Federal Style house that was once next to the "old" Prentiss house. There were four generations of George Prentiss' - a long-established family prior to Belmont incorporation.

The four George Prentiss Houses, three still extant (Inventory #'s 48-1, 48-2, & 52-5), illustrate 19th century architectural development through three generations of one family on one street (not contiguous) in Belmont.

This continuity of one important family and three significant intact architectural structures - Federal, Greek Revival and Queen Anne - is important to and a reflection of the building development patterns of Belmont - meeting Criteria B of the National Register of Historic Places' standards.

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

¹ Belmont Historical Society, Spring House Tour, May 25, 2968 - Information sheet on Prentiss House, 233 Prospect Street.

"The Prentice-Marsh Cider Mill", Belmont Citizen, July 25, 1974, page 2.

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

Betts, Richard, The Streets of Belmont and How They Were Named.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET - 2

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Belmont	Form No: 52-5
Property Name: 233 Prospect Street	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFNCANCE (Continued):

The George Prentiss II House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and association with a craftsman/builder, George Prentiss, of the early 19th century who was important in the market-garden development period of Belmont. Because the house embodies these distinctive characteristics, it meets Criteria C of the National Register of Historic Places' standards.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom