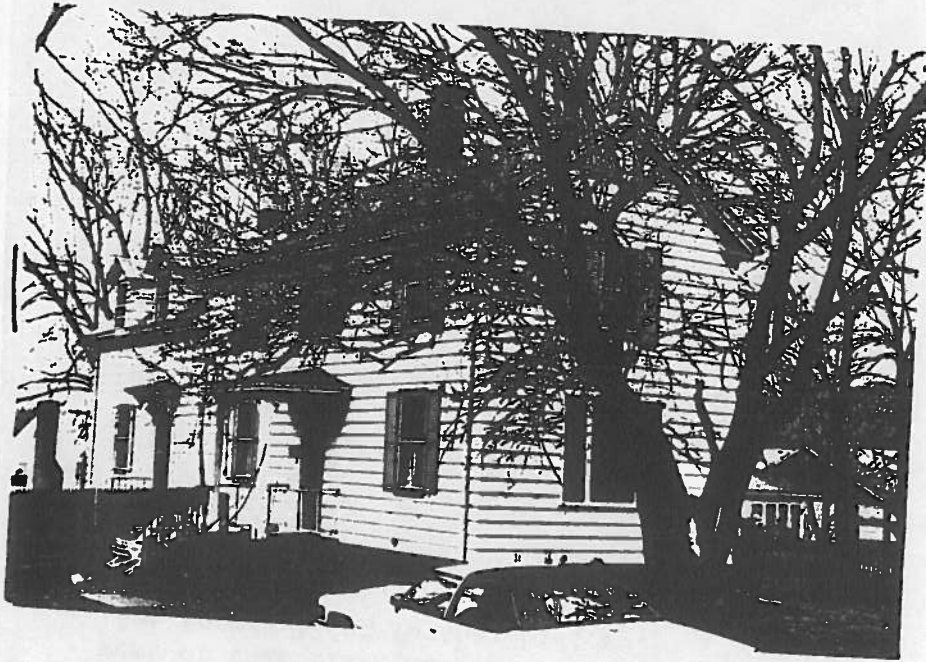


FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA 4 A	FORM NO. 9-3
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Belmont

Address 275 Washington Street

Historic Name Shaw Homestead

Present residence

Original residence

DESCRIPTION:
1875

Source Engineering Department

Style vernacular farm house

Architect

Exterior wall fabric aluminium siding

Outbuildings none

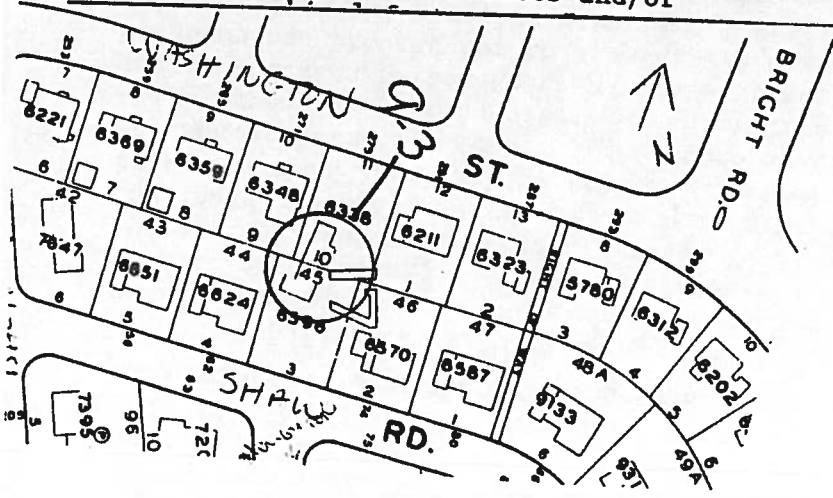
Major alterations (with dates) none

Moved n/a Date

Approx. acreage 6,338 sq.ft.

Setting set sideways on lot well back
from street, surrounded by trees and
fence

SKETCH MAP
Show property's location in relation
to nearest cross streets and/or



Recorded by Frankie Lieberman
Boston University
Organization Preservation Studies
Date 19 November 1982

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The architectural significance of the Shaw homestead lies in its illustration of a late 19th C. vernacular farmhouse. There is no other building in Belmont similar to it, although most of its features -- gable roof, two-story, three-bay, central entry, central chimney -- are typical of the Colonial Revival, the most popular Belmont style after 1870. The south wing -- one and a half stories with a dormer style roof -- is what distinguishes the building from others of the genre. The house may have had exterior modifications when modern storm windows and aluminium siding were installed. The fence in the center of the house indicates it is now a two-family residence.

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

The historical significance of this house lies in its illustration of the market gardening phase of Belmont's development. Market gardening had replaced subsistence farming as a way of life by the time the railroad was cut through from Boston to Fitchburg in 1843. Herbert F. Shaw was born in Chelmsford, Mass. in 1852 and in 1875 bought twelve and one half acres of farm land from the heirs of Josiah Bright (Form E⁴21-9), making this the last market garden to be developed in this section of Belmont. (Other farms, such as the Skahan's (Area Forms X³ and Y³) were still expanding, but no other new enterprises were begun after 1875.)* This is the section between Dalton Road and Grove Street. In 1880 Herbert married Louise Houghton and brought her to live at 275 Washington Street. He died in 1889 leaving four children and a twelve acre farm. Mrs. Shaw continued to run the business, growing various vegetables for the Boston market. She married Rollin L. Holt in 1906 and in 1912 they bought the King property on the north side of Washington Street (Area Form W). Also in 1912 the Shaws acquired the Stone property to the west of their farm and sons George and Edward apparently took over the business. (See Form 9-1 for further history.)

* check

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

Betts, Richard, The Streets of Belmont. . . , pp.288-292
Beers, 1875 Atlas
Stadley, 1898 Atlas
Sanborn, 1922 Atlas
Belmont Engineering Department records