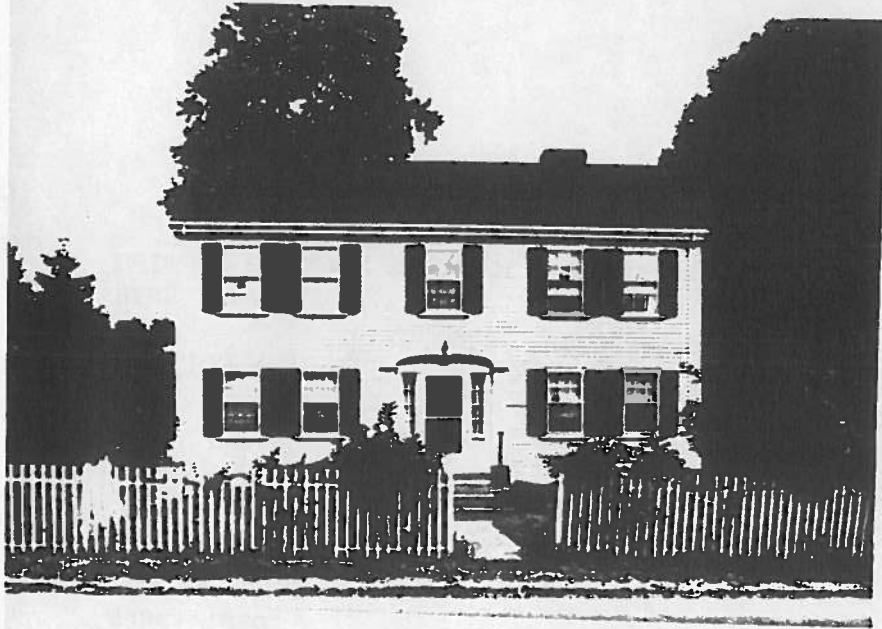


FORM B - BUILDING

AREA R ³	FORM NO. 45-3
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108



City Belmont

Address 291 Brighton Street

Historic Name Thaddeus Frost House

Use: Present residence

Original same

DESCRIPTION:

Year c. 1805

Source HABS Survey

Style Federal

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric Clapboards

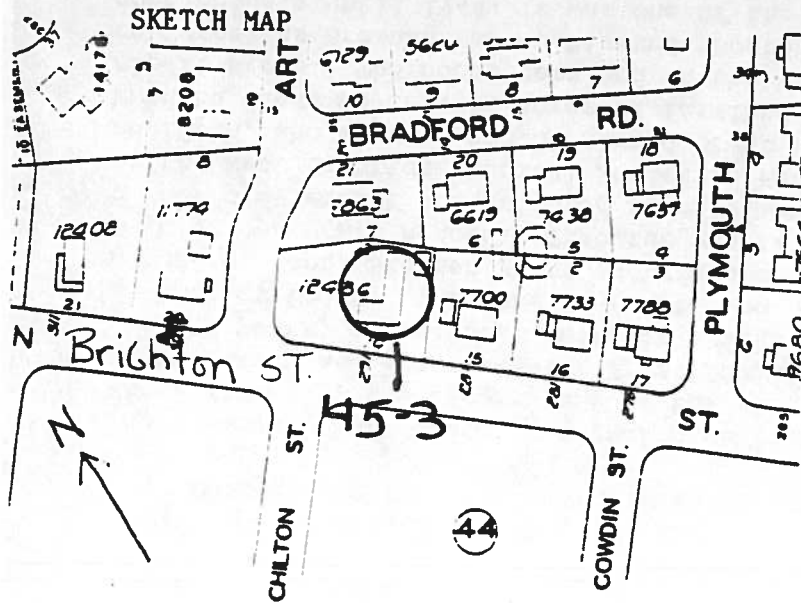
Outbuildings garage

Major alterations (with dates) _____

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 12,486 sq. ft.

Setting Single-family houses.



Recorded by Christopher Forbes Nash

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.)

Surrounded by post- WW II ranches and split-levels, the Thaddeus Frost House represents Belmont's prosperous farming past. Set on a large corner lot surrounded by a period fence and stone walls, the 2 1/2-story, 5-bay house features a modest, sidelit Federal entry, simple cornerboards and lintels, and a 1 1/2-story rear ell. Only the east chimney remains on the main block; one on the rear ell includes a fireplace wall with original crane and dutch oven. A large hardwood ice chest, dating from the mid-19th century, and originally used to store produce to be sent to market, is still extant in the kitchen.

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

The Thaddeus Frost House is significant as the homestead of the important Belmont farming family, the Frosts, and as the site of a famous celery farm which was still in operation as late as 1944. Frost family members have owned property in Belmont for 270 years, these early settlers being the progenitors of most of the "Frosts" in America today. Thaddeus C. Frost, who built this house in c. 1805, was the nephew of Capt. Stephen Frost and grandson of Capt. Ephraim Frost, both famous Revolutionary War heroes. Thaddeus was raised in the family homestead on the corner of Pleasant and Brighton Streets, and at the age of 11 became a member of the West Cambridge Musical Society. He built the house for his wife and eight children, who went to school next door at the 1842 Brighton Street Schoolhouse. When he died, he left 16 acres of farmland along with the house to his son, George Albert Frost. The house remained in the Frost Family until 1905, when it was sold to Cornelius Bresnan who cultivated "Boston Market Celery" on the site. Farmed continuously until 1944, it was one of the last of Belmont's large farms to be subdivided.

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

HABS Survey
Belmont Historic District Commission files