

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA <u>M</u>	FORM NO. <u>17-1</u>
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Belmont
 Address 325 Common Street
 Historic Name Christopher Grant House

Present single family residence
 Original farmhouse

DESCRIPTION:
 Date 1760
 Source building dept. records

Style Georgian, central chimney house
 Architect NA

Exterior wall fabric wood clapboard
 Outbuildings garage

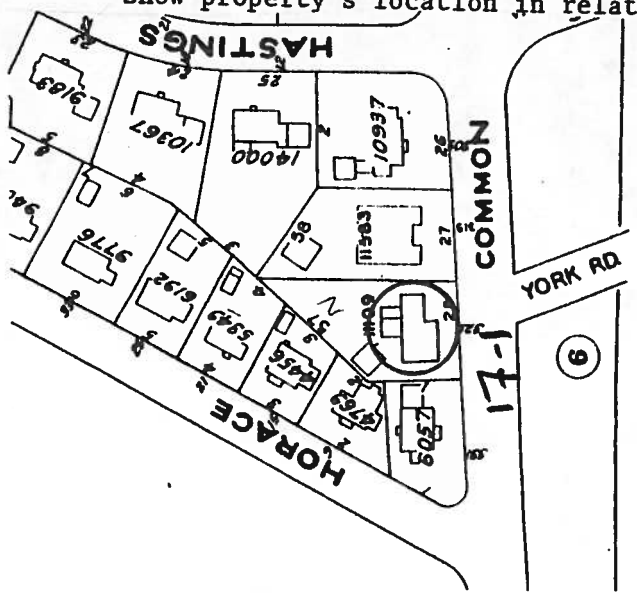
Major alterations (with dates) portico,
late 19th century

Moved NA Date _____

Approx. acreage less than 1/2 acre

Setting On busy thoroughfare, amidst
early 20th-century single family
development.

SKETCH MAP
 Show property's location in relation



Recorded by Nora Lucas
 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 Christopher Grant House, 1760, is significant as one of the oldest houses in Belmont and rare vestige of the town's early period of development.

The House (BEL-82-17-9) and (BEL-82-24-6) is an intact example of a five bay central chimney house, with a gable saltbox roof and clapboard siding.

A side-hall, shed-roof wing is thought to predate the main house.

David Chenery, who purchased the farm and house in the late 19th century, added a simple flat-roofed portico.

The house is significant under Criterion C of the National Register as a rare (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 Christopher Grant house is a standing reminder of two families important in Belmont's agricultural and civic history, and is therefore significant under Criterion A of the National Register.

Built in 1760 by Christopher Grant, a Revolutionary War soldier and one of Belmont's first settlers, the house came into the hands of the Chenery family in 1882, when David Chenery II, son of David and Caroline Homer Chenery, purchased the Grant farm. It is the only Chenery farmhouse left standing on the west side of Common Street.

Christopher Grant became a Sargent in Captain Samuel Barnard's (Form G1) Watertown Co., in 1775, reaching the rank of Colonel by the end of the Revolution. He married Sarah Wilson in 1763, and was an apple farmer and Watertown Selectman from 1781-94. His descendants kept the farm until around 1880 when David Chenery II, purchased the house and some of the land.

Branches of the Chenery family, who settled in Belmont in 1630, owned and farmed much of the land near this parcel East and West of Common Street, from Washington Street to the present Fairmont Street. The Chenery's played a significant role in Belmont's history as a market garden as well as in the town's civic development (Forms _____)

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

Betts, pp. 157-8, 235-6, 269-74.

French, "Col. Christopher Grant Homestead," Belmont Citizen, June 28, 1973
"1760 House at Common Street, Landmark." Belmont Citizen, Sept. 6, 1963

CHRISTOPHER GRANT HOUSE INVENTORY CONTINUATION SHEET

Architectural Significance Continued

intact example of the Georgian Style in Belmont.