

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
none	24-7

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108



Belmont
 Address 32 School Street
 Historic Name Thomas C. Morton House

Present residence
 Original farmhouse

DESCRIPTION:
c1840
 Source Building Department Records

Style Greek Revival
 Architect NA
 Exterior wall fabric wood clapboard
 Outbuildings NA

Major alterations (with dates) front porch removed no date

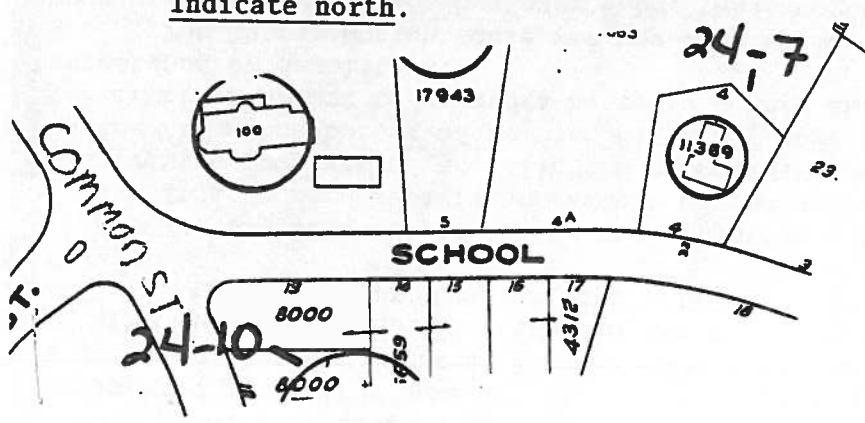
Moved from Arlington Date 1966

Approx. acreage under 1 acre

Setting In medium-sized lot, adjacent to large estate and near road.

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.



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 Thomas C. Morton House of c. 1840, is an example of a simple Greek Revival farmhouse, and represents one method of preserving a house slated for demolition in favor of a new highway. The house was moved to its present site from neighboring Arlington in 1966.

The central entry, gable-roofed, three-bay house (BEL-82-14-23-23A) has wide corner pilasters, smooth, unornamented cornice, and a simple doorway with sidelights. Pedimented gable ends have rectangular windows with six over six sash. A front porch with fluted columns is said to have been removed.

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

The significance of the Thomas C. Morton House at 30 School Street is multi-fold. It is a rare surviving example of the Greek Revival Style in Belmont, a surviving property of an Arlington market gardener who farmed land in Belmont on the Arlington border of Belmont Hill, and most importantly, an example of a preservation effort to remove a house to a safe and appropriate setting when threatened by demolition.

The Thomas Morton house was moved to Belmont from Arlington out of the path of Route 2 in 1966, by Roger Webb. When moved, protective facade restrictions were registered with the Belmont Historic District Commission to secure its architectural integrity.

Thomas Charles Morton was born in 1826 in Nova Scotia, and at a young age, left school to find employment in Maine before reaching Massachusetts. He drove a team for a Cambridge market gardener, and eventually became a successful market gardener in his own right, farming the land from Belmont Hill to Menotomy Park in Arlington.

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

French, Mrs. Frank E., "The Thomas C. Morton House," Belmont Citizen, June 2, 1974.