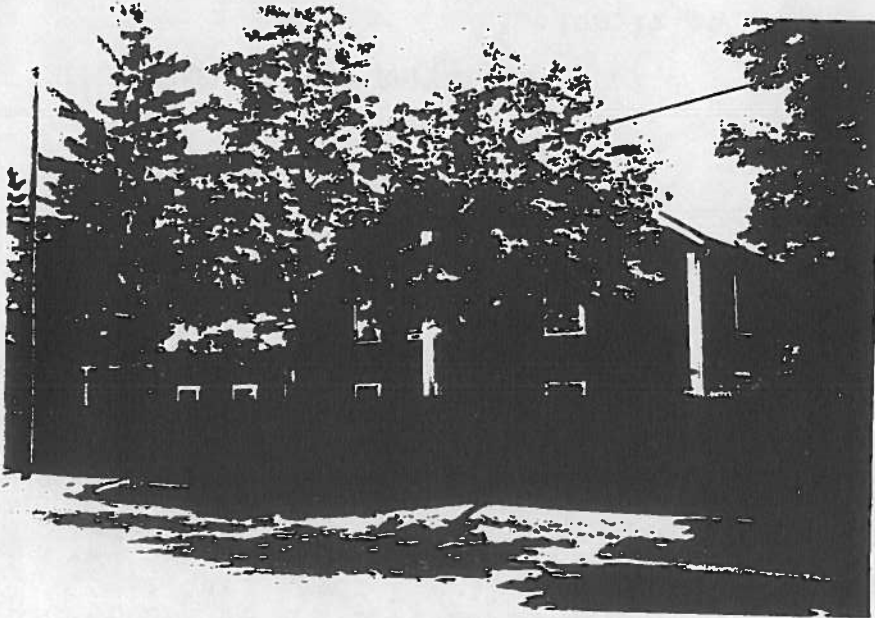


FORM B - BUILDING

Area F ⁴	Form no. 44-1
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Belmont, Mass.

288 Pleasant St.

Local Name Abraham Hill House

Original residence

Present residence

Ship: Private individual
Private organization

Public

Original owner Abraham Hill

LOCATION:

location in relation to nearest
cross streets and other buildings
or geographical features.
Indicate north.

Date c.1693

Source Belmont room files

Style Central Chimney

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboards

Outbuildings _____

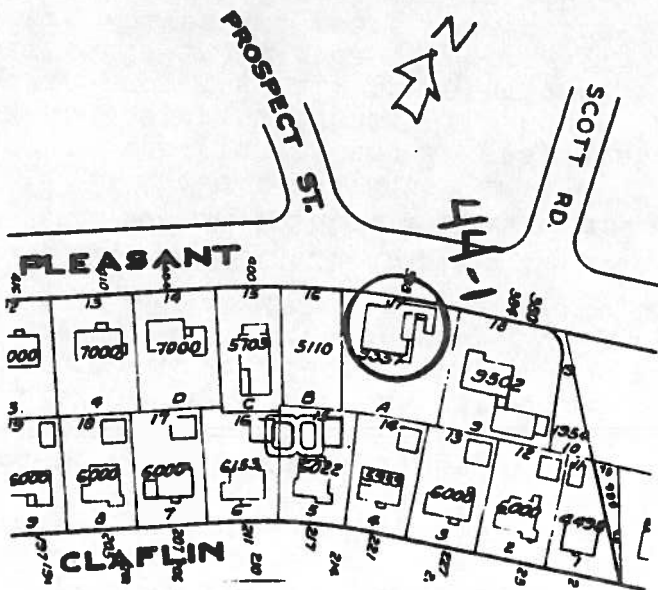
Major alterations (with dates) _____

altered and enlarged 1796

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 9337 sq.ft.

Setting single-family houses



Recorded by Christopher Forbes Nash

Organization Boston University

Date Aug. 31, 1982

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

A landmark along Pleasant Street, the 1693 Abraham Hill House is most significant as the earliest standing house in the area. The 2½-story, central-chimney early-period house is somewhat less impressive because of its setting on a modest lot, fenced in and surrounded by trees. With the gable end to the street, a rather vernacular addition of wings and roof extensions break up the basic rectangular massing of the clapboarded house. The house was built six feet from the street as one of the early Cambridge building code's prescribed, and faced South to take advantage of the winter sun. Originally there was one large chimney, traces of which remain in the basement at the rear of the house. The room above still has the handhewn beam where crook-

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

As the oldest house in the area still standing, the 1693 Hill House has one of the richest and longest histories of any house in Belmont. Abraham and Sarah Cooper Hill built the house on what was then called "The Parthe which Goeth From the Mill to Watertowne", on land of Sarah's father. The homestead was built in an area of Northwest Cambridge known as Menotomy, a wild woodlar where wolves and bears roamed freely as late as 1754. Abraham was a constable, the surveyor of highways in 1693-4, a Cambridge Selectmen in 1695-6, a haward for Metonomy Field in 1700 and 1702, and fence viewer in 1702. James Hill, born here in 1723, later altered and enlarged the house in 1796. Throughout the generations the Hill's were successful market gardeners, having a stall at Faneuil Hall market next to Isaac Locke's, where they sold fruit and vegetables. During the revolution, Zachariah Hill, son of Abraham, and his five sons were members of a secret regiment, and all five sons fought in the War. During the Civil War, Nancy M. Hill, living in the house, served as a volunteer nurse in the Armory Square hospital in Washington, D.C. and later went on to become one of the earliest female physicians in the country. Isaac Hill, born in the house, became the Governor of New Hampshire from 1830-39, and was publisher of the New Hampshire Patriot for many years. Members of the Hill family lived in the house until 1942, when Harriet Hill, a teacher in the Belmont schools for many years, passed away.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Historic District Commission files

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Belmont, Mass.	Form No: 44-1
Property Name: Abraham Hill House	

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

architectural significance:

necked squash were hung for winter use, and herbs dried from in front of the hearth. On the Northeasterly side of the house was a long sloping roof to allow the snow to slide off. The house was altered and enlarged in 1796, including removal of the one large central chimney and replacing it with the two chimneys now standing. This allowed eight fireplaces to heat the larger space. The saltbox roof was changed and the addition to the street of a kitchen and sheds, which give the house its peculiar appearance today. The interior still features hand-split lathe, hand-wrought nails, and low-studded rooms with broad-axe marks on their supporting beams. The width of some of the floor-boards and wainscoting indicate the size of Belmont's early timber. A number of barns and houses existed on the property, including a cider-mill, hen house, and several hay and farm barns.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom