

NRIND NRMRA 10/17/1985

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no. <u>W</u>	Form no. 127/437A <u>1742-1</u>
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town Brookline MRA
 address 203 Heath Street
 name Benjamin White House
 present use Residential
 present owner R.M. & M.A.B. Whittemore
 description:
 date 1790
 source SOME OLD BROOKLINE HOUSES
by Nina Fletcher Little
 style Georgian-Federal

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Architect Information not available
 Exterior wall fabric Clapboard
 Outbuildings (describe) Garage
 Other features 2 1/2 stories; hip roof; shed roof dormers; dentilled cornice; pedimented front & side doors; pilasters at entrance; quoins.
 Altered Yes* Date _____
 Moved Yes* Date _____

5. Lot size: 43,201 sq. ft.
 One acre or less X Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 240'
 Approximate distance of building from street
90'

- * 1868 - Chimneys removed; house moved back from Heath Street & turned to front west; westerly hall of lower floor attached to stable and carriage house.
- 1946 - 1 1/2-story, 40'X24' addition for attached garage; rear ell torn down & house moved to location of torn down (over)

6. Recorded by Larkin and Benka
 Organization BHC
 Date Jan. 1980
 Newton Quadrangle
 UTM references: 19/322870/4687590
 Map #: 31

7. Original owner (if known) Benjamin White

Original use Residential - stable and carriage house on lower floor.

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>x</u>	Exploration/ settlement	<u>x</u>	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The Benjamin White House, #203 Heath Street, is one of three buildings on Heath Street built before 1825. Benjamin White, the first cousin, once removed of John Heath, who built 30 Heath Street for his son c.1791, built this house in 1790. The land on which it was built was owned by the Corbin family at the end of the 17th century; by the middle of the 18th century, the White family, whose holdings extended from north of the Worcester Turnpike (now Route 9) onto Heath, Warren, and Clyde Streets, held this land. After the Civil War, the Cabot family purchased the property, moved the building back from Heath Street, turned it, and attached it to a large barn. In 1947, the barn was demolished and the main house was moved onto the site of the barn.

The house is a square 2 1/2 story clapboard structure with quoined corners, hip roof, a dentilled cornice, and pedimented side and front doors. When the house was moved and turned so that it fronted west, the chimneys were taken out, and the westerly half of the lower floor was converted into a stable and carriage house. The original front door was replaced by a window, and an entrance was made from the old side door.

In her book, Some Old Brookline Houses, Nina Fletcher Little states that the interior remodelling undertaken in 1947 was unfortunate since so little of the original woodwork remains today. The exterior, however, has, in general, been well preserved; the modillioned pedimented entrance echoes that one found at #30 Heath Street.

203 Heath Street meets NR criteria A,B,and C, being a Georgian/Federal style homestead belonging to the Whites, a prosperous family during the period dominated by farming.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Some Old Brookline Houses by Nina Fletcher Little, p. 106

Theodore Jones, Land Ownership in Brookline.

Permits-1946

Harriet Woods, Historical Sketches of Brookline- p.332

John Curtis- History of Brookline, pp.106-109.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
SANITORIUM

203 Heath St. (127/437/11-1)
Benjamin White House
BROOKLINE (MA) MRA
town of Brookline Map Jan '81
scale 1/2" = 200ft.

HIGH SERVICE STANDPIPE
BRK. WATER WORKS

SINGLE TREE HILL
RESERVOIR

LEGE

HEATH

CABOTT

SINGLE TREE

ROAD

STREET

ROAD

LAPLAND ST

CRAMOND ROAD

LYMAN

CUTLER LANE

ROAD

STREET

LOWELL LANE

WARREN

ROAD

FERNWOOD

STREET

STREET

