

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

M, W

Form no.

17



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

1. Town Brookline ¹⁶⁰¹ BKL.1601

Address 285 Warren Street

Name NA

Present use Residential

Present owner R. H. Davison

3. Description:

Date 1855-58

Source Maps of Brookline

Style Greek Revival Influence

Architect Information not available

Exterior wall fabric Horizontal board siding

Outbuildings (describe) Lg. barn and carriage shed

Other features 2 1/2 stories, clap-board exterior, symmetrical facade, gable roof, 2 chimneys, heavy cornice, 2 story bay on left

Altered Yes* Date

Moved no Date

5. Lot size: 54,207 sq. ft.

One acre or less Over one acre X

Approximate frontage 300'

Approximate distance of building from street 110'

6. Recorded by Research-Leslie Larkin,
Compilation-Carla Benka
Organization BHC

Date May 1983

- * 1904 - 17' X 19' kitchen and laundry ell added; ell raised 1-story for sleeping; 3 bays added.
- 1935 - 2-story bay, 18'X6' added; room added over existing bay.
- 1977 - Repair fire damage to (over) roof and 3rd floor.

83/334-13

7. Original owner (if known) probably Simon Warren

Original use Single family dwelling

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

One of the more interesting architectural features of this house is that the wooden exterior has been rusticated to imitate stone facing or blocks. It was built as a simple farmhouse, and in spite of damage from a fire in 1977 and the loss of an attractive roof railing, the structure has retained its pleasing proportions and simple details.

It was probably built by Simon Warren between 1855 and 1858, on land which he had purchased from his sister Louisa. After Simon's death, it passed to John Warren and then through his estate to Simon's son, Frank Celfe Warren (by 1900). After that, it was purchased by the heirs of John Lowell Gardner (see 135 Warren Street).

grand
Simon and his brother John were the sons of Simon Warren, a sadler from Jaffery, New Hampshire and the sons of John Warren, also born in New Hampshire. Their father purchased land from Nathaniel Ingersoll in 1809 (see 135 Warren Street) and built 305 Warren Street, next door.

For more information on the Warrens, see #305 Warren Street.

This house and the one next to it are reminders of the agricultural nature of this part of Brookline. Although Warren Street, from Welch Road to Green Hill Road, is still dominated by the homes of 19th century Boston merchants who chose Brookline as the place of their summer residences, houses such as this belonged to farmers and yeomen such as the Warrens who also served the Town as constables, field drivers, pound keepers, and members of the school committee.

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

Nina Fletcher Little, Some Old Brookline Houses
Maps-1855, 1858
Tax list-1861, 1871
Atlases-1874, 1884, 1888, 1893, 1897, 1900, 1900