

FORM B - BUILDING

|      |          |
|------|----------|
| AREA | FORM NO. |
|      | 442      |

~~MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION~~  
~~294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108~~

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116

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PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)  
staple to left side of form

Photo number \_\_\_\_\_

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Town Arlington, MA  
Address 275 Broadway  
Historic Name Damon House

Use: Present Residence  
Original Residence

DESCRIPTION:

Date ca. 1850  
Source Parker's History of Arlington

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.

Style Greek Revival with Italianate additions  
Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings two apartment buildings sit behind the house

Major alterations (with dates) ca. 1875; entry updated, side wings, fence and retaining wall added; two modern brick apartment blocks at rear of lot ca. 1950.

Moved No Date N/A

Approx. acreage less than one acre

Setting The house is surrounded by a Granite retaining wall and fine wrought-iron fence.

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date 12/84

UTM: 19/323200/4697720

(Staple additional sheets here)

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)**

This five-bay, central entry house has the broad band of unadorned trim emphasizing its cornice that typifies most Greek Revival-style buildings. Two chimneys behind the ridge and a pair of dormers, both original features of the house, surmount the lowpitched roof. Built ca. 1850, the Damon House was remodeled ca. 1875 in the Italianate style. At that time, a double entry, capped by a small but elaborately detailed bracketed hood, and side wings, were added. A fine wrought-iron fence and granite retaining wall, both in a well-preserved state, also date from this period.

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

Although local tradition has ascribed this house to Rev. David Damon, architectural evidence indicates that it was most likely built just after Damon's death in 1843. Rev. Damon was Minister of First Parish Church in Arlington Center and it is probable that he owned the land on which the Damon House sits. His descendants owned this property until the 1940s. The house had a large orchard behind it.

During the Second World War, sixty fruit trees were uprooted to make room for a community Victory Garden. Today the former orchard is occupied by two brick apartment blocks. Built ca. 1950, the two buildings are still part of the original Damon House lot and are considered intrusions.

**CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION**

The Damon House is an intact representative of the Italianate style. It retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It fulfills criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

Parker's History of Arlington  
Assessors Records

10M - 7/82

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Arlington Multiple Resource Area  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Bassett, Maria, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Melrose Byers 9/27/85

Attest

*Name change*  
12. Buildings at 1334 and *admission denied*  
1339 Massachusetts Ave. *DIST*

~~Entered in the~~  
~~National Register~~

Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_ 5

Attest

13. Call-Bartlett House

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Melrose Byers 4/18/85

Attest

14. Capitol Theater Building

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Melrose Byers 4/18/85

Attest

15. Chapel of St. Anne

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Melrose Byers 4/18/85

Attest

16. Cushman House

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Melrose Byers 4/18/85

Attest

17. Cutter, Jefferson, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Melrose Byers 4/18/85

Attest

18. Cutter, Second, A.P.,  
House

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Melrose Byers 4/18/85

Attest

19. Damon House

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Melrose Byers 4/18/85

Attest

20. Farmer, Kimball, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for  
Keeper

Melrose Byers 4/18/85

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Damon House (Arlington MRA)  
Middlesex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. MAR / 6 / 1985  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/4/86  
Date Due: 4/4/85 - 4/20/85  
Action:  ACCEPT 7-18-85  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

|          |                    |            |             |
|----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
| Category | Ownership          | Status     | Present Use |
|          | Public Acquisition | Accessible |             |

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

|                                    |                                       |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Condition                          |                                       | Check one                          | Check one                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> altered   | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |                                    |   |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

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**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*) \_\_\_\_\_

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

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Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Damon House  
275 Broadway  
Arlington MA



