

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no. 96/355-9
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1. Town Brookline MRA

Address 235 Goddard Avenue

Name John Goddard House

Present use Residential

Present owner M. DuP. Faulkner

3. Description:

Date 1767

Source SOME OLD BROOKLINE HOUSES,
by Nina Fletcher Little

Style Georgian

Architect Information not available

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) Garage

Other features 2 stories; square compact mass; hipped roof w/ lg. central chimney at apex; pedimented entrance portico w/sidelights & Doric columns sym. facade; cornerboards & pilasters 6/6 windows.

Altered Yes* Date NA/18/80

Moved No Date _____

5. Lot size: 97,120 sq. ft.

One acre or less _____ Over one acre X

Approximate frontage 185'

Approximate distance of building from street
35'

6. Recorded by Leslie Larkin

Organization BHC

Date June, 1980

* Barn and ell removed.

(over)

Newton Quadrangle
UTM References: 19/323930/4686760
Map #; 19

See 15 Goddard Ave. for information on the development of the street, and Curtis, Goddard and Little (See Bibliography) for more information on Goddard and his role in the Revolutionary War.

7. Original owner (if known) John Goddard

Original use Farmhouse

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Residence

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

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

This square, compact house has a hipped roof, large central chimney and center entrance, and, on the interior, panelling, doors and hardware characteristic of the Revolutionary period. There was once a long ell to the west, with rooms for hired hands above and sheds and a bakery below. The large barn where John Goddard stored powder and cannon for the Continental Army stood to the west as well, and has since been demolished. (See attached Xerox). This is a good example of a small, prosperous 18th century farmhouse, one of the few remaining in Brookline, and because of **its** historical associations, one of the most important.

In 1712 Joseph Goddard of Watertown, having arrived from England as a boy in 1665, bought two parcels of land in Brookline from Dorman Mearns, one of the original grantees of Muddy River. (The date of 1680 for the original house here, placed on the chimney, is in error, according to Jones). Goddard built a house here, which was reached by farm lanes or "driftways" from both Clyde and Warren Sts. His son John moved to Worcester in the 1740's, leaving the farm to his son John in 1753. This John married as his second wife Hannah Seaver of Brookline, and they had 12 sons and 3 daughters. In 1767 they built the present house and tore down the old one. Goddard was energetic and a hard worker - besides farming his land, he worked as a teamster and excerpts from his diary in the Public Library show that he spent a good deal of time helping neighbors and acting as executor for friend's estates, and he also hauled bricks and laid the hearths for the town schoolhouse and the parsonage. (Mrs. Little quotes extensively

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

Curtis, History of Brookline
Goddard, Nathaniel, Diary, in Nathaniel Goddard, a Boston Merchant, privately printed, 1906
Little, Some Old Brookline Houses
Directory, 1881-2
Atlases, 1874 on
Plan, Engineering Dept., L/13/C/42
Jones, Land Ownership in Brookline

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Brookline

Form No:

96
355/9

Property Name: John Goddard House

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

Historical significance

from this diary). A delightful account, both of life on the Goddard farm and of Goddard's Revolutionary War activities, was written by his son Nathaniel, who was born the same year this house was built, attended the Putterham School at its old location (See Newton St.) He states that from 1763 to 1770 his father was successively Constable, Surveyor of Highways, Selectman, Assessor and Collector, and that from 1770 on he was involved in the struggle for colonist's rights. In 1774 John Goddard was the deputy from Brookline at the Provincial Congress in Salem, and in November of that year the Committee of Safety, meeting in Cambridge, voted unanimously that he be appointed "Wagon master General to the army of the twelve united Colonies". Munitions for the Continental Army had to be stored in communities surrounding Boston, and British soldiers were constantly searching for them. Goddard had shells and shot hidden in his pastures, and powder in the farm "shop". On April 10, 1775, with the approach of searching parties, he took two ox-cart loads and two horse-cart loads of powder, grapeshot and canteens to Concord for safety, as did men in neighboring towns - the British, on hearing of this, set out on the 18th of April and met "the embattled farmers" at Concord Bridge.

Goddard's greatest role in the Revolution, however, was the fortification of Dorchester Heights. The British by now were surrounded in Boston, but they were supplied from the sea. Washington realized he could not attack across the harbor or Roxbury Neck, but the Heights (now in South Boston), reached by a road through Roxbury Crossing and across the salt meadows of Dorchester, would give a fine advantage, as cannon fire from there could rake Boston. Goddard, as wagon-master, was put in charge of the operation; speed and secrecy were of the utmost importance. 300 teams and wagons were commandeered and the oxen were shod with felt and the wheels of the carts and wagons wound with hay. On the night of March 4th 2000 men and the wagon train, loaded with cannon, shot, tools for trenching, and saplings and hay for fences or fascines to support earthworks, proceeded quietly through Roxbury and up Dorchester Heights. The British awoke to find fortifications well under way and cannon pointed at the town. Even though they dug trenches, their guns could not be fired high enough to dislodge the rebels, making any attack, without cover of cannon fire, too hazardous. On March 17th, now celebrated as Evacuation Day, the British sailed away from Boston. General Washington asked Goddard to accompany his army to New York, in the same capacity as wagon-master, but Goddard declined, wishing to return to farming and his large family. He served as Representative from Brookline to the Great and General Assembly from 1776 to 1792. In the 1780's, by which time the farm on Goddard Ave. comprised 70 acres, he gave it to his son Joseph, buying land on both sides of Boylston St. near the present Reservoir with his son Benjamin (see 43 Sumner Rd.). John Goddard compiled a list for the Rev. Dr. Pierce of all houses standing in Brookline in 1740, as did his grandson Samuel Aspinwall Goddard for the period 1800-10. Joseph

OVER

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Goddard, who remained on the ancestral farm, married Mary Aspinwall, and one of their 12 children, Abijah Warren Goddard, inherited the place. He owned it into the early 1900's, the place consisting then of two houses, barns and sheds and only 9½ acres.* In 1872 Abijah Goddard had had his land surveyed in order to sell 56½ acres of the high ground to the west to Samuel Shackell of Boston, who subdivided it into 171 lots and, at least on plans and in the 1874 Atlas, laid out a number of new streets. This subdivision, on both sides of Goddard Ave., was called Goddard Heights, but as far as can be determined, not a lot was ever built on. The reason is not known - as late as 1893 Shackell still owned the land, but there were no buildings on it. Abijah Goddard married Eliza Tilden, and their daughter Eliza Tilden Goddard inherited the farm, passing it on to her daughter Mary Watson Wright, who still owned it as late as 1919. This property, then, remained as a farm and in the same family for over 200 years. In the same tradition of service to the town that John Goddard showed, his son Joseph served as Selectman from 1796 to 1817, and his son Abijah was a Selectman from 1835-37 and Representative to the General Court in 1856 and 1868.

* Even so, it was still farmed - the 1881-2 Brookline Directory lists A. W. Goddard under Farmers - vegetable.

The John Goddard House meets NR criteria A,B,and C, having been built by Goddard, the wagon master of the Continental Army and strategist for the fortification of Dorchester Heights. The simple farm house is a rare Brookline example of the Georgian style.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 9-4-85
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Brookline MRA
State MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Elliot, General Simon,
House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Alvina Byers 10/17/85

Attest

22. Emmett Cottage

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Alvina Byers 10/17/85

Attest

23. Fernwood

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Alvina Byers 10/17/85

Attest

24. Fire Station #7

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Alvina Byers 10/17/85

Attest

25. Fisher Hill Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Alvina Byers 10/17/85

Attest

26. Francis, Dr. Tappan Eustis,
House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Alvina Byers 10/17/85

Attest

27. Fuller, Peter, Building

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Alvina Byers 10/17/85

Attest

28. Goddard, John, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Alvina Byers 10/17/85

Attest

29. Graffam Development
Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Alvina Byers 10/17/85

Attest

30. Green Hill Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Alvina Byers 10/17/85

Attest

85003270

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Goddard, John, House (Brookline MRA)
Norfolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. SEP 4 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 10/3/85 - 10/19/85
Action: ACCEPT 10-17-85
 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 Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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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

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

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 _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



235 Goddard Ave.

Goddard, John, House

Brookline (MA) MRA



1680

1367

- Brookline

-4 John Goddard Cottage
235 Goddard Ave.

- I

8.1847

Brookline (MA) MRA

235 Goddard Ave. (96/355-9)
John Goddard House
BROOKLINE (MA) MRA
Town of Brookline Map Jan '81
Scale 1/2" = 200 ft.



BOSTON