

FORM B - BUILDING

Area	Form no. 74/318-50
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

PHOTO (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

Town Brookline MRA

Address 103 Walnut Street

Historic Name Eliphalet Spurr House

Use: Original residential

Present residential

Ownership: Private individual
Private organization _____

Public _____

Original owner Eliphalet Spurr

SKETCH MAP

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features. Indicate north.

See attached map.

Boston South Quadrangle
UTM Reference: 19/325390/5688490
Map #: 65

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1798

Source Nina Fletcher Little, Some Old Brookline Houses

Style Georgian influence

Architect information not available

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) _____

Install rear stairs (1977)

Moved NO Date N/A

Approx. acreage 7091 square feet

Setting Single family house abutted by triple deckers, set back from street approximately 30 feet, densely developed neighborhood

Recorded by Carla Benka

Organization Brookline Historical Com.

Date October 15, 1980

103 Walnut Street meet NR criteria B and C, being a rare example of a vernacular Georgian style house and the home of Eliphalet Spurr, an influential figure in the area of local transportation to and from Boston.

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

The Eliphalet Spurr House, built in 1798, exhibits characteristics of the Georgian style. These features include: the simple ridge roof, five bay facade, cornerboards, horizontal emphasis, and dentiled cornice. One of the few Georgian-style houses in Brookline, 103 Walnut Street is by far the oldest house in the immediate neighborhood and is particularly noticeable due to the comparatively large house lot and generous set back from the street

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

Not only is this house a good example of the vernacular Georgian style, but its first owner, Eliphalet Spurr, was a well known figure in late 18th and early 19th century Brookline. Like Ginery Twichell who owned 17 and 40 Kent Street in nearby Brookline Village, Spurr's fame derived from his involvement with transportation. However, while Twichell was an "unrivaled" express rider, a stage driver, and later president of the Boston and Worcester Railroad as well as the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad, Spurr's reputation was more locally based. The first line of coaches to be established between Brookline and Boston was owned by Spurr; his stage started from the Punch Bowl Tavern. This enterprise was successful for only a year or two since potential passengers thought the twenty-five cent fare too high. "Perhaps if that generation had been less hardy or less energetic, Mr. Spurr's enterprise would have succeeded better..." However, residents of Brookline chose to walk to Boston, over Roxbury Hill and the Neck, to do their shopping and to tend to their other affairs.

The land on which this house was built was part of the land grant which was awarded to Thomas Leverett in 1638. Used for farming, it was later sold to the Gardner family, and by 1746, part of the property had been sold to Major Edward White. Six acres of the land remained in the hands of the White family until 1846, while the remaining acreage was sold off, beginning in 1790. Eliphalet Spurr died in 1817; the house and land were later owned by Thomas Aspinwall, a civically minded citizen, and his sister Elizabeth; they retained ownership of the property until 1842.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Historical Sketches of Brookline by Harriet Woods, p. 21.
History of Brookline by John Curtis, p. 197.
Some Old Brookline Houses by Nina Fletcher Little.

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

71. Saint Paul's Church, Chapel,
and Parish House

Entered in the ^{fa}
National Register

Delores Byers 10/17/85

Keeper
Attest

72. Saint Paul's Rectory

Entered in the
National Register

^{fa} Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

73. Sargent's Pond

Entered in the
National Register

^{fa} Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

74. Second Unitarian Church

Entered in the
National Register

^{fa} Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

75. Spurr, Eliphalet, House

Entered in the
National Register

^{fa} Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

76. Standish, James H., House

Entered in the
National Register

^{fa} Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

77. Strathmore Road Historic
District

Entered in the
National Register

^{fa} Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

78. Toussaint, Winand, House

Entered in the
National Register

^{fa} Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

79. Town Stable

Entered in the
National Register

^{fa} Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

80. Tuckerman, William F.,
House

Entered in the
National Register

^{fa} Keeper

Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

85003316

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Spurr, Eliphalet, 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
Entered in the RETURN
National Register REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- 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



BR0

Brookline

112 3/4

II-22

Eliphalet Spurr House
103 Walnut St.

35-I

3 x 3 1/2

68.1865

CONTEST

Send to:

Nancy Smeck
13 Sewer St.

Brookline MRA

103 Walnut St. (74/313-50)
Elphaleet Spurr House
Brookline (MA) MRA
Town of Brookline Map Jan 1981
Scale 1/2" = 200 ft.

