

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA T	FORM NO. 553
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108



Town Lexington

Address 177 Concord Avenue

Historic Name Benjamin Wellington

Homestead _____

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1802

Source Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society II:120

Style Federal

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric aluminum siding

Outbuildings removed

Major alterations (with dates) two-story rear ell (before 1890s; removed); one-story porch and room on east (fieldstone foundation)

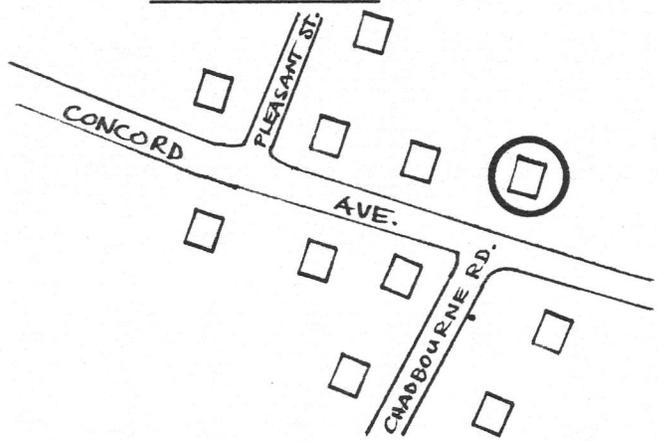
Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 18970 ft.²

Setting On street with continual traffic surrounded by 1950s and 1960s houses built on land formerly associated with this house.

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.



Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date March, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This imposing Federal farmhouse is one of the surviving Federal houses along what was the Cambridge-Concord Turnpike and, like the houses at 272 Concord Avenue and 503 Concord Avenue, has brick ends and end chimneys. Unlike the others, however, this house is really two houses built back-to-back; thus, although it is the usual five bays wide, it is four bays deep and has four chimneys instead of the customary two. Aside from a frieze board across the facade, the house has lost most of its original exterior finishes: clapboards

(see Continuation Sheet)

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

According to an antiquarian account, this house was built in 1802 by Benjamin Wellington (1743-1812) for his sons Benjamin O. (1778-1853) and Peter (1781-1869) (Smith 1891:120). Although 1804 may be a more likely date of construction since the Cambridge-Concord Turnpike was not built until that year and the house is set facing the road, it is clear the Benjamin O. and Peter Wellington married sisters, in 1811 and 1813 respectively, and that both lived in the house with their families. The elder Benjamin Wellington was reportedly one of the first in Lexington to transport milk into Boston for sale, and this business was continued by his son Benjamin O. The latter became one of the prominent figures in Lexington's nineteenth century dairy industry at a time when the milk business consisted of delivering milk to a regular "route" of city customers and, later, of buying milk from other farmers and selling it in the city. Benjamin O. Wellington was also prominent in town affairs, serving as a selectman four times between 1814 and 1831, on the school committee from 1832 to 1836, and as an assessor twice. His brother Peter was less active in the town but, as a member of the building committee for the first town hall in 1845, advocated a building with two stories (see ¹⁰⁻¹²⁻¹⁴ Vine Street form) and, in a similar role for the original Franklin School in 1851, raised the money to finance the inclusion of a second story (see 376 Lincoln Street form) (Smith 1891:107, 122). After Benjamin O. Wellington's death, the milk business was carried on by his son Winslow, and in the late nineteenth century the farm was

(see Continuation Sheet)

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

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington II, pp. 730-732. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1913.

Lexington Historical Society Archives, Burr Church Collection

Smith, A. Bradford. "Kite End" (1891). Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society II (1900):120-122.

Smith, George O. "The Milk Business and Milk Men of Earlier Days" (1897). Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society II (1900):187-196.

Worthen, Edwin B. A Calendar History of Lexington, Massachusetts, 1620-1946, p. 123. Lexington, Massachusetts: Lexington Savings Bank, 1946.

1906 map

1887 Directory

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Lexington	Form No: 553
Property Name: 177 Concord Avenue	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

(and now aluminum siding) cover the brick ends and the doorway is modern. The clipped gable roof and the clipped upper corners of the gable-end windows may be the result of a late nineteenth century "modernization." The original granite gate posts stand at the east end of the driveway off Concord Avenue.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

owned by Cornelius Wellington (1828-1909), an abolitionist and a wholesale dry goods dealer whose occupation is listed as "household art rooms" in the 1887 Directory. In 1897 the farm was owned by a Miss Chase, and in 1906 by James Kimball, a produce dealer in Boston.

In 1928 the Wellington farm began a new career when it became Minute Man Golf Club with the homestead as the clubhouse. It continued as such until 1952 when the clubhouse was remodeled back into a residence and the former farmland was used for housing developments.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom