

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
	587

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108



City Lexington

Address 419 Marrett Road

Historic Name Joseph Bridge House

Present Use residential

Original Use residential

DESCRIPTION:

Estimated Date c. 1722

Source Edwin B. Worthen, Jr.

Style Early Second Period ^{Georgian}

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboards

Outbuildings garage

Major alterations (with dates) wing to the right removed (date unknown)

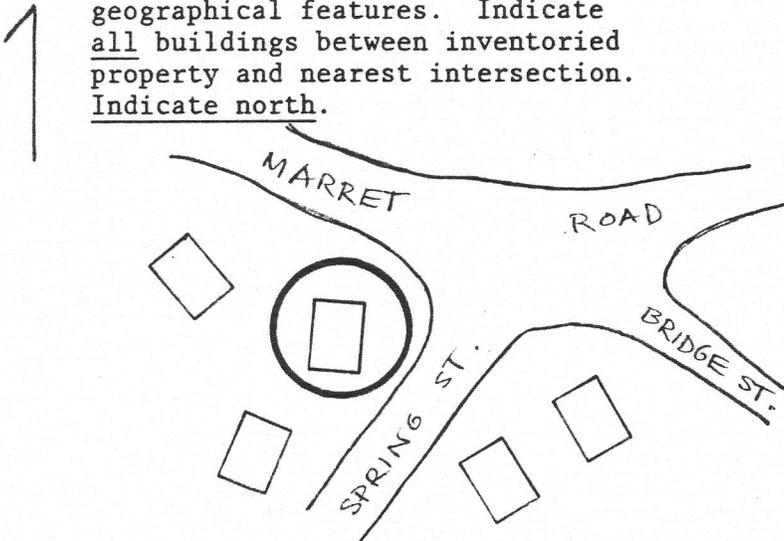
Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 28000 ft.²

Setting At a busy corner on state highway; residential zone to the east; small commercial area immediately to the west.

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 Anne Grady

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date April, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This is one of two early Second Period houses in Lexington which retain an integral lean-to in its original configuration (the Whittemore Muzzey house on Marrett Street in Minute Man Park is the other). Second Period Vernacular features include small narrow windows placed with the outermost two grouped closer together, clapboards with narrow weather, and panelled pilasters at the entry (an added porch has obliterated the entablature over the door visible in an early photograph). There is evidently raised-field panelling in several locations on the interior.

(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.)

This property was part of the acreage amassed by the Bridge family in the seventeenth century. Before his death in 1738, Matthew Bridge, Jr. had given a house and 100 acres of farmland to each of his four sons (see 271 Marrett Road form for a fuller account of the Bridge family). Second son, Joseph Bridge (b. 1698, d. 1778) received this house. It was built, according to Worthen, in 1722. This would be the approximate time of Bridge's marriage to Abigail Cutler. Joseph did not hold public office in Lexington as many of the Bridges did, but devoted his time to farming.

From 1817 until the end of the third quarter of the nineteenth century, the Wellington family farmed this area. Nehemiah Wellington was the first of the family to reside here. He served as assessor in 1840, selectman in 1841, and was Representative to the General Court in 1836 and 1838.

From the late nineteenth century until the 1920s, the Grassland Stock Farm was operated here. It was owned by Edward Saxton Payson who was a piano manufacturer with offices in Boston.

In the 1920s the farmland was subdivided and the Grasslands development begun (see 1 Grassland Street form for further information).

*House has been owned by Curtin family since 1955.
LM 2/2009*

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

Kelley, Beverly Allison. Lexington, A Century of Photographs, p. 14. Boston: Lexington Historical Society, 1980.

"Kite End." Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, pp. 99-122. Lexington, Massachusetts: Lexington Historical Society, 1900.

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, pp. 520, 55. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

Letter from Edwin B. Worthen, Jr. and Anita P. Worthen to the Lexington Planning Board, November 2, 1964.

Worthen, Edwin B., Jr. "The Bridge Family and Lexington." Written for the use of the Lexington School Committee, 1964.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Lexington	Form No: 587
Property Name: 419 Marrett Road	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

For some reason (perhaps a fire) a four-bay-wide, one-room-deep addition to the right visible in the early photograph (Kelley 1980:14) has been removed.



Staple to Inventory form at bottom