

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
	515

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108



n Lexington

ress 8 Marrett Road

toric Name Josiah Bryant House

: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

e c. 1805

Source Proceedings of the Lexington
Historical Society, II, p. 49

Style Federal

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboards

Outbuildings _____

Major alterations (with dates) ell added
(first half of the nineteenth century)

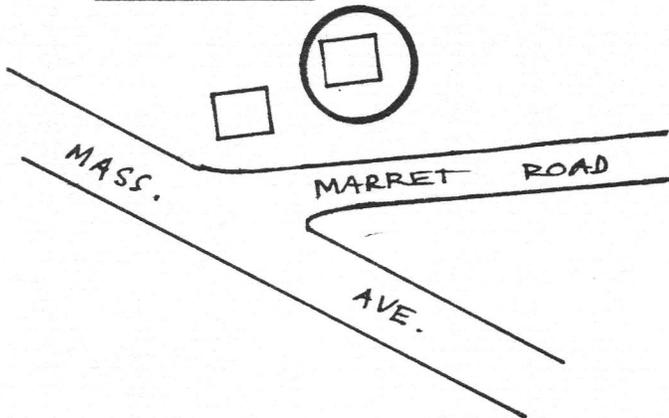
Moved back from street between 1898
Date and 1906

Approx. acreage 48500 ft.²

Setting Set back from busy residential
street; surrounded by twentieth century
houses; across the street from the Museum
of Our National Heritage.

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 the earliest of the five-bay-wide, one-room-deep with rear chimneys houses to survive in East Lexington. The building type, which invariably retains the small stair hall with three-run stairs opposite the entrance door found in Second Period center chimney houses, was built by the dozens in East Lexington during the economic boom in the first third of the nineteenth century.

(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.)

The house was built by Josiah Bryant, who came to Lexington about 1800 and was a blacksmith here for 35 years. Bryant gave music lessons on the fife and clarionet and played for military companies. His son, Albert W. Bryant, who was a poultry raiser, lived in the house until 1902. A.W. Bryant was a selectman, assessor, town clerk for 25 years, justice of the peace and member of the school committee. Bryant was one of the leaders of the "old guard" from whom control of town government was wrested by newcomers in the 1890s. Also active in the historical society, Bryant wrote an article entitled "Lexington Sixty Years Ago" for the Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society.

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

Bryant, Albert W. "Lexington Sixty Years Ago." Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, p. 49. Lexington: Lexington Historical Society, 1900.

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, p. 73. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

Schwemmer, Yvonne. Notes following examination of the building, 1976. Lexington Historical Commission files.

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Lexington	Form No: 515
Property Name: 8 Marrett Road	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The building exhibits a semicircular fanlight at the entrance door on the east side. The fanlight is so placed that its height exceeds that of the first floor ceiling, a solution to which rural carpenters of the period occasionally resorted when ceiling heights would not accommodate a full fanlight on the first level.

The house retains Federal trim in the easternmost rooms: on the staircase, a balustrade with twisted balusters, mahogany newel posts and handrail, and scrolled, cut out decoration on the step ends; in the downstairs rooms, mantel-pieces with Adamesque floral garlands on the friezes, plain dado with molded cap and molded cornices. Finishes in the upstairs rooms are simpler versions of Federal trim.

The ell appears to have been constructed in the first half of the nineteenth century. Between 1898 and 1906, the atlases indicate the house was moved back on the lot.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
LEXINGTON

Property Address
8 MARRETT ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	515
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

According to the present owner (Charles Schock), the ell that was added to the rear (west) of the main house may have been an older, small center chimney house that was moved there. There is a section between the original house and this addition which was added later, perhaps around 1900.

Mr. Schock also notes that the house is now shingled over the original clapboards. Mr. Schock had a small addition constructed on the north (street) side. Also regarding the description of the fanlight in the previous form: "The fan light is not higher than the ceiling though the trim around the light is "cut in half" at the ceiling".

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Schock, Charles (present owner). Information on history of house, Sept. 2007.

Supplement prepared by:
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