

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

Town Chelmsford

Address 4 Proctor Road

Name Bateman House

Present use residence

Present owner George F. Waite

Description

Date ca. 1790 ea. 1795-1800

Source Vital Statistics, deeds, Waters "History"

Style Georgian

Architect clapboard; brick ends

Exterior wall fabric \_\_\_\_\_

Outbuildings (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Other features stately 2-story square house with brick ends which carry the 4 chimneys up through the gable room

Altered x Date 5-22-1830

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size: 29,052 sf & 20 acres

One acre or less \_\_\_\_\_ Over one acre x \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage Acton Rd. 1416'  
Proctor Rd. 1100'

Approximate distance of building from street \_\_\_\_\_

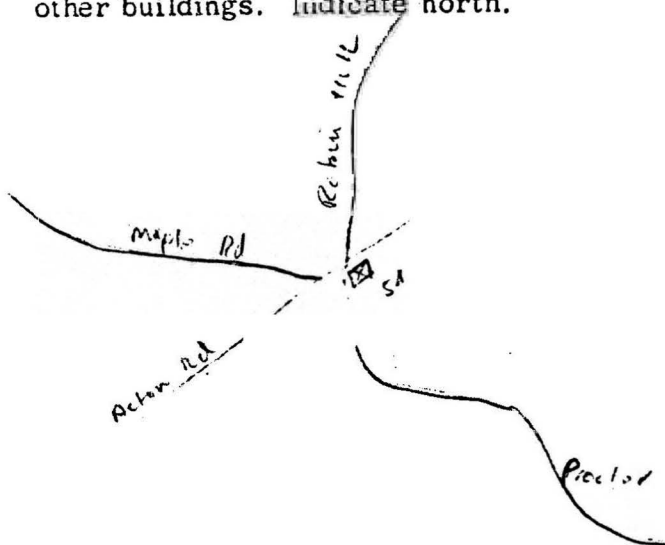
6. Recorded by 1020

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE  
USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_  
MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) John Bateman (b. ca 1757, d. 1828)

Original use residence (farm)

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<u>      </u>	Conservation	Recreation
Agricultural	<u>  x  </u>	Education	Religion
Architectural	<u>      </u>	Exploration/ settlement	Science/ invention
The Arts	<u>      </u>	Industry	Social/
Commerce	<u>  x  </u>	Military	humanitarian
Communication	<u>      </u>	Political	Transportation
Community development	<u>      </u>		

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

This beautiful brick ended house was built by Lt. John Bateman, who came with his wife Hannah and at least 2 daughters from Concord probably after 1786 but before 1788, when his daughter Lydia was born. The house was probably built about this time. Seven more children were born by 1803, so a large house was needed. Lt. Bateman was apparently an important man in town; in 1800 when Pres. Washington died, he was named to the committee to make arrangements for a service in Pres. Washington's memory. A fireplace that is still painted black is said to have been so painted at this time. In 1807 he served as treasurer to the Baptist Society which was the 1st church to withdraw from the First Parish Church. In 1818 his son Ephraim was "killed instantly by a wagon passing over his neck," but in that same year his daughter Charlotte married Ezebiel Byam.

Following Lt. Bateman's death in 1828, the farm passed to Ezebiel and Charlotte Byam, who built a large addition to the house. However, in 1830 the estate was under a 7 year lease to Isaac Bullard, and in 1831 Ezebiel Byam lived briefly in Philadelphia, though he soon returned to Chelmsford. He was a "trader" for years with his own store and blacking shop.

However, by 1835 Ezebiel Byam was manufacturing the first Lucifer matches in America. The match shop was a small building on Robin's Hill Road, near the house at 4 Proctor Rd, and the odor produced by the sulphur used in making the matches, gave the area the nickname "Brimstone Corner". In 1837 he bought the whole patent to the improved friction match. These were widely sold, and each package of 100 matches cost 25¢ and bore the verse: "For quickness and sureness the public will find, These matches will leave all others behind. Without further remarks we invite you to try 'em, remember all good that are signed by E. Byam"

About a year later the operation was moved to Boston, but he returned to Chelmsford about 1845 and continued the business here until 1848. Having outgrown the facilities, the business again moved to Boston, this time permanently (and in 1880 was sold to the Diamond Match Co).

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, cont. below/early maps, etc.)  
1831 map; 1856 Walling's map; 1875 Beers Atlas; 1889 Atlas; Waters' "History of Chelmsford"; Chelmsford Assessors' records; Chelmsford Newsweekly, 1955; "Ezebiel Byam & the Lucifer Ma+''" 1975, by G.A. Parkhurst; "Vital Statistics to 1850" Chelmsford, Concord; Middlesex North District Reg. of Deeds.

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However, Ezebiel retained 4 Proctor Rd. until 1862 and considered it his home until then. He died in 1863 at the home of a daughter in Charlestown.

The property is still being run as a successful farm, with its popular roadside stand selling excellent vegetables.

4 Proctor Rd. – Bateman House  
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

Registered Deeds, Middlesex North District

Bk. 34, pg. 77 Cert. # 6238	04/06/1943	George L. & Delia B. Waite
Bk. 34, pg. 75 Cert. # 6237	04/06/1943	Mary J. Johnston, Lowell, 3 <sup>rd</sup> party
Bk. 14, pg. 15 Cert. # 2207	08/25/1923	George L. Waite
Bk. 9, pg. 409 Cert. # 1398	01/20/1920	Charles Edwin Lougee, Dracut
Bk. 7, pg. 53 Cert. # 826	08/01/1916	Edith N. Pratt, Lowell
Bk. 5, pg. 149 Cert. # 492	12/10/1913	Dwight M. Pratt

Non Registered Deeds

Bk. 511	10/08/1913 Notice of Filing	Dwight M. Pratt 26.04 A.
Bk. 508, pg. 405	07/15/11912	Estate of Warren Berry, deceased, to Dwight M. Pratt, Lowell \$1 30 A.; house
Bk. 130, pg. 259	04/01/1878	Daniel Raymond to Warren Berry, Lowell \$3500 29 A. & 120 rods; house farm stock, tools, etc.
Bk. 74, pg. 503	07/26/1870	Rebecca Bascom to Daniel Raymond, Lowell \$3500 29 A. & 120 rods; house
Bk. 49, pg. 265	05/24/1866	Josiah W. & Emiline W. Spaulding to Rebecca Bascom, Lowell \$2500 29 A. & 120 rods; house 2 <sup>nd</sup> lot - Carlisle
Bk. 35, pg. 235	07/15/1863	Ruth & George W. Sawin to Josiah W. Spaulding, Pepperell \$2000 & \$1000 mortgage 29 A. & 120 rods; house 2 <sup>nd</sup> lot – Carlisle
Bk. 30, pg. 486	04/01/1862	Ezekiel Byam, gentleman, Charlestown, to Ruth H. Sawin, Cambridge \$5000 55 A.; house & buildings 2 <sup>nd</sup> lot – 6 A., South Chelmsford

<p>No. Bk. 012, pg. 507 So. Bk. 307, pg. 370</p>	<p>09/12/1831 Mortgage</p>	<p>William Byam, yeoman, to Stephen Cushing &amp; Lewis Fiske, Lowell \$2000 80 A. - homestead farm of John Bateman, deceased large dwelling house, barn, store, other buildings 3 pieces of land 30 A. - outlands 5 pieces of land</p>
	<p>4/19/1837 discharge</p>	
<p>No. Bk. 012, pg. 486</p>	<p>05/26/1831</p>	<p>Ezekiel &amp; Charlotte Byam, trader &amp; wife, Philadelphia, PA, to William Byam, yeoman \$3000 real estate of John Bateman, deceased 2 other lots of land</p>
<p>No. Bk. 012, pg. 303 So. Bk. 292, pg. 098</p>	<p>08/27/1829 Mortgage</p>	<p>Ezekiel Byam, trader, to Charles &amp; John Henshaw, merchants, Boston \$1000 homestead farm of John Bateman, deceased 40 A.; dwelling house &amp; other buildings 8 A. meadow &amp; woodland 7 A. tillage 3 A. swamp &amp; woodland - Westford 60 A. woodland south of Hart's Pond 4 A. woodland - the "plane" 44 A. woodland - 3 undivided 7<sup>th</sup> parts Molly proctor dower All pieces formerly John Bateman's, deceased, to Ezekiel Byam</p>
<p>No. Bk. 012, pg. 507</p>	<p>Mortgage assignment</p>	<p>Charles &amp; John Henshaw, Boston, to Stephen Cushing, millwright, &amp; Lewis Fiske, manufacturer, both of Lowell \$1048</p>
<p>No. Bk. 012, pg. 469 So. Bk. 301, pg. 336</p>	<p>12/18/1830 Mortgage</p>	<p>Ezekiel Byam, trader, to William Byam, yeoman \$2000 150 A. John Bateman's homestead &amp; outlands under 7 year lease to Isaac Bullard</p>
<p>No. Bk. 012, pg. 398</p>	<p>05/22/1830 Mortgage</p>	<p>Ezekiel Byam to William Byam, cordwainer \$2000 various undivided 7<sup>th</sup> parts Mary Proctor Cook dower (widow of Peter) land, store &amp; buildings thereon ½ A. including blacksmith shop 4 A. formerly of James Robbins northeast portion (new addition) of John Bateman's house barn, grainery, part of a barn - formerly of John Bateman</p>
<p>Probate Docket #1377</p>	<p>1828 Will</p>	<p>Estate of John Bateman</p>

Waters, History of Chelmsford:

pg. 398 "In the South Village, the Berry house, so called, with brick ends, is a good example of that type, and well preserved. It was built by John Bateman, whose daughter, Charlotte, married Ezekiel Byam, the match manufacturer."

Newsweekly, 1955:

(Under pictures) "The Bateman House at 4 Proctor Road, South which was built about 1750. A fireplace was painted black when George Washington died."

Waters, History of Chelmsford:

- pg. 394 "The more stately, two-story, square houses with brick ends, which carried the four chimneys up through the gable roof, came in during the latter half of the eighteenth century. The Sam Davis house, the Coburn house, the Fiske house, and the Ezekiel Byam house are of this description, and some of them are quite noteworthy, with their pilastered fronts and fanlights over the transoms of the outer doors. Those named were built about the year 1800."
- pg. 701 "In 1807, John Bateman was treasurer of the Baptist Society."
- pg. 815 "1800. Jan. 20. The Town took into consideration the death of the worthy General Washington, and Mr. Mattathiah Spaulding was desired to deliver an oration in the Town on the 22nd of February next. A Committee was appointed to arrange the business of that day: Dr. Timothy Harrington, Lt. John Bateman, Lt. Cyrus Baldwin, Dr. John Betteys and Gen. Ebenezer Bridge."
- pg. 596 "The Lucifer march was an English invention. This match was of small strips of wood, and the inflammable mixture was a compound of chlorate of potash and sulphurate of antimony, with enough powdered gum to render it adhesive when mixed with water and applied over the end of the match, dipped in melted brimstone. These matches were ignited by drawing them through a piece of bent sandpaper. The first Lucifer matches that were made in this country were manufactured at South Chelmsford, in 1835, by Ezekiel Byam, the founder of the house of Byam, Carlton & Co., of Boston, of which his son, E. G. Byam, was afterwards at the head.
- These matches were put up in packages containing one hundred, which sold for twenty-five cents a package.
- Although this was a great improvement over anything that had preceded it, the expense was too great to bring it rapidly into favor. Very soon, however, this difficulty was overcome by the invention of the present friction match. This was patented by A. D. Phillips, of Springfield, Mass., October 24, 1836. Mr. Byam at once saw the importance of this invention, and, with characteristic enterprise, he purchased, first, the right to manufacture, and soon after the whole patent, and in 1837, introduced the friction match to the public. The old "match shop," as it was called, stood on the old road leading from South Chelmsford to the Centre, a few rods from the house of Mr. Eli P. Parker, on the opposite side. It was a small building, set into the bank, with one story above the basement.
- The matches were put up at the Willard Byam house, which stood just beyond the shop on the site of the residence of Mr. E.P. Bean.

After manufacturing here about a year, Mr. Byam removed to Boston, at the corner of Union and Blackstone streets. He returned, however, to Chelmsford about the year 1845, and continued till the spring of 1848, when business having outgrown his accommodations, was transferred permanently to Boston.

Most of the old match shop was demolished years ago, but a portion of it was removed to the premises of Mr. N.B. Lapham, and used as a carriage house.

The place in South Chelmsford where the matches were made was called Brimstone Corner. These verses went with the matches all over the country:

'For quickness and sueness the public will find,  
These matches will leave all others behind;  
Without further remarks we invite you to try 'em,  
Remember all good that are signed by

E. Byam.'

Ezekiel Byam was born in Chelmsford, Ocyober 24, 1796, the son of William and Rebecca. February 15, 1818, he married Charlotte Bateman. He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. O. B. Dudley, in Bunker Hill street, Charlestown, August 9, 1863, and was buried in Forefathers' Cemetery, Chelmsford."

402 Storekeepers  
1828 Ezekiel Byam

463 "A hand bill brings to public notice:

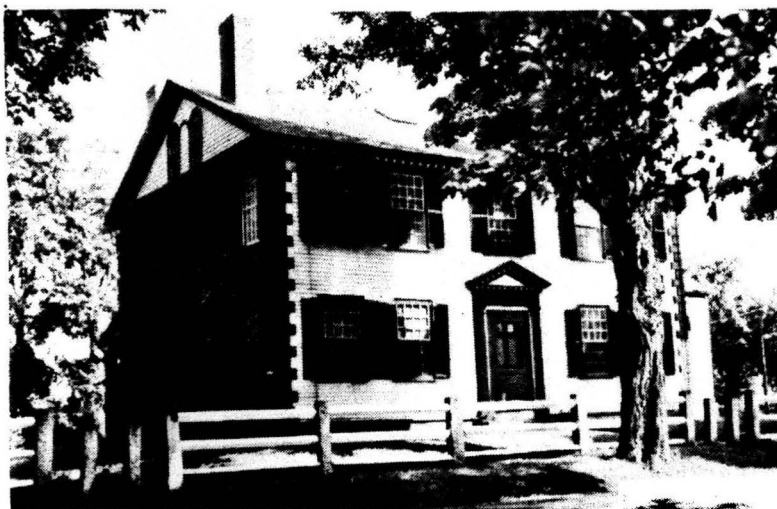
The Genuine  
Liquid Opodeldoc  
or  
Rheumatic Ointment  
Faithfully Prepared and Sold by  
Ezekiel Byam, Chelmsford, Mass.  
on Favorable Terms."

pg. 492

Dec. 1825. As a constable, Ezekiel Byam posted a public notice



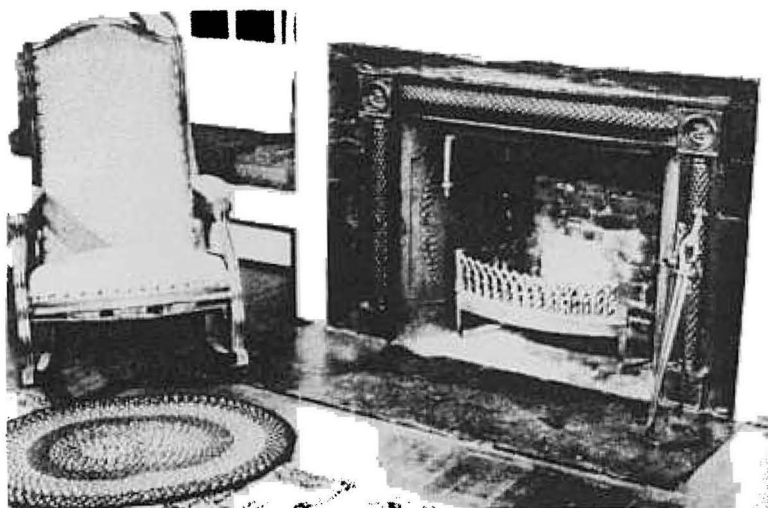
Charcoal drawing of the Waite farm as it looked 75 years ago.



Bateman House at 4 Proctor Road, South which was built about 1750

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daughter, Mrs.  
, Mrs. Dorothy  
and Mrs. Frank  
Florence Dono-  
Dorothy Work in  
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Fireplace at the Waite House. It was painted black when George Washington died.



WAITE FARM at 4 Procter Road, in snowstorm





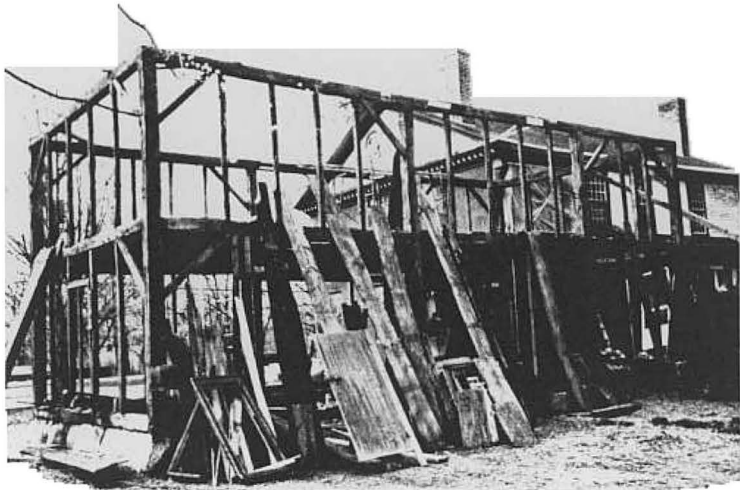
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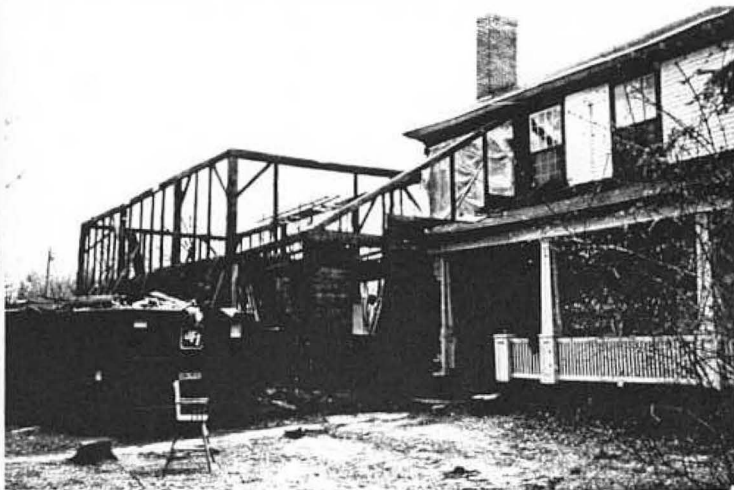


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