

FORM B - BUILDING SURVEY

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

1. Is this building historically significant to:
Town _____ Commonwealth _____ Nation _____

Building has historical connection with the following themes: (see also reverse side)

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| Scholar | Commerce/industry |
| Agriculture | Science/invention |
| Art/Sculpture | Travel/communication |
| Education | <u>Military Affairs</u> |
| Government | Religion/philosophy |
| Literature | Indians |
| Music | Other _____ |

Development of town/city _____

Architectural reason for inventorying: _____

2. Town Chelmsford

Street address 55 Spaulding Road

Name George Spaulding House

Use: original & present Residence

Present owner Dr. Edward F. Parsons

Open to public _____

Date ca 1775 Style Georgian

Source of date Waters "History of Chelmsford"

Architect _____

OR part of Area # _____

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low _____ Material Cellar walls - fieldstone & mortar
Granite blocks. Left side: partly fieldstone & mortar.

WALL COVER: Wood Clapboard-Lapped _____ Brick Stone Other _____
butted - newell

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard _____
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork _____

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 _____ Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 _____ ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ells Shed rear + right side

PORC 1 2 3 _____ PORTI _____ Balcony _____

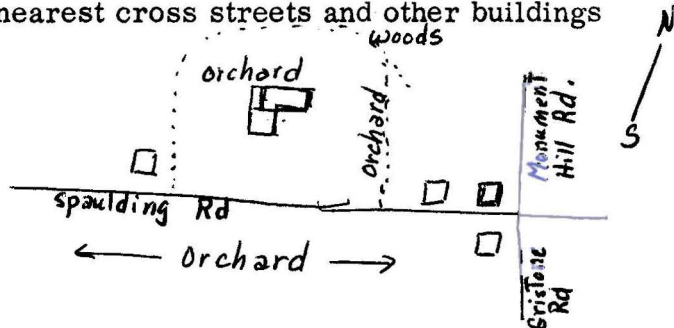
FACAD: Gable end Front side Ornament _____

Entrance: Side Front Center Side Details: 4 Lights each side of door. Plain lines. Steps: granite & wood

Windows: Spacing: Regular Irregular Identical Varied 5 Bay x 1 Bay 6 over 6 panes

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings



6. Footage of structure from street 64
Property has 212 feet frontage on street

Recorder Jane Drury

For Chelmsford Historical Commission

Photo # _____ Date 10/5/72

SEE REVERSE SIDE

RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

1. Outbuildings none

2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal
Predominant features small orchard, field, steep circular driveway
Landscape architect _____

3. Neighboring Structures

Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.
Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern

Use: Residential Commercial Religious Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

This house was probably built by Joseph Spaulding before and after his service in the Revolutionary War, and remained in the Spaulding family for several generations before being sold in 1922.

Joseph Spaulding served at Concord and also at Bunker Hill, where he probably fired the first shot ahead of Time and also may have killed Major Pitcairn. He is reported to have said, "I fired ahead of Time, and Putnam rushed up and struck at me for violating orders. I suppose I deserved it, but I was anxious to get another good shot at Bage's men ever since our affair at Concord. The blow from 'old Put' hit me on the head, made a hole in my hat, and left this scar."

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

- Waters: "History of Chelmsford, Mass." (1917)
- Allen: "History of Chelmsford, Mass." (1820)
- Chelmsford "Newsweekly" (1955)
- Robert C. Spaulding
- Farmer's Geological Register
- First Parish (Unitarian) Church records (Chelmsford)

RESTRICTIONS _____

Original Owner: Joseph Spaulding

Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____, _____ Registry of Deeds

George Spaulding House
55 Spaulding Road

Chelmsford "Newsweekly" (1955)

"The house now owned by Ben Drew of Westford at 55 Spaulding Road, and occupied by Chas. Baits, was probably built by Joseph Spaulding before and after his service in the Revolution. It was later occupied by George O., whose son Clarence is the present Robert's father.

Robert C. Spaulding, member of the Chelmsford Fire Department, represents the Spaulding family of this town which, with its several branches, included many prominent descendants of Edward, first of his name to settle here. Robert is the 11 generation from Edward and the sixth from Joseph Spaulding who fired the first shot at Bunker Hill and who is also said to have killed Major Pitcairn. Joseph's watch, made in London in 1707, is today Robert's prized possession. Joseph's father was John, whose father was the original Edward. Descendants of Joseph were, in successive generations, Lt. John, Lt. Robert, Joseph, Alpheus, George A, George O., Clarence, Robert C."

Waters "History of Chelmsford"

pg. 226

"Joseph Spaulding (Ford's co.) always declared that he killed Major Pitcairn, and Farmer's Geological Register and the Chelmsford Church record so state this. He may have aimed at Major Pitcairn, who, having been twice wounded, again placed himself at the head of his forces and fell with four balls in his body. He did not die on the field."

pg. 231

"Joseph, born April 18, 1756, son of Robert and Hessediah (Johnson). Died July 31, 1820 Aet. 64. He is reported to have said, 'I fired ahead of time, and Putnam rushed up and struck at me for violating orders. I suppose I deserved it, but I was anxious to get another good shot at Gage's men ever since our affair at Concord. The Blow from Old Put hit me on the head, made a hole in my hat, and left this scar.' "

pg. 355

"Chelmsford men wounded in the Battle of Bunker Hill as given by Allen included Joseph Spaulding."

pg. 455

"The militia trained in the spring of the year and in the fall was the Annual Muster, which was sometimes in Chelmsford and sometimes in neighboring towns. In Chelmsford the muster field was in the meadows at the centre of the Town, near where the Gun Club's house now stands. It was on one of these occasions, eighty-four years ago (1833), when the men were all at the muster, that the buildings at the old Spaulding home were burned, with Joseph Spaulding's hat, which showed the effects of Putnam's sword at Bunker Hill."

Margaret Mills (9/26/72)

"There is a house at the south corner of Summer St. and Boston Road which Mabel Emerson's parents, the Fendersons, built. It was often called the Farrington House for people who lived there later. As a child I was never allowed in the woods behind this house near First St., behind Royal Dutton's (32 Boston Rd.), because of clay pigeon shooting there. That's the only Gun Club I know of."

Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the War
of the Revolution

Compiled from the Archives by the
Secretary of the Commonwealth; 1891

Adams Library

Volumes XIV, page 692:

Spaulding, Robert, Chelmsford. 2nd Lieutenant, Captain John Ford's (4th) co., 7th Middlesex Co., regt. of Massachusetts militia, list of officers; commissioned May 31, 1776; also, 2nd Lieutenant, Captain Ford's (4th) co. (North co. in Chelmsford); list of officers chosen in said company, as returned by Simeon Spaulding, field officer, dated Chelmsford, July 5, 1776; ordered in Council Sept. 3, 1776, that said officers be commissioned; also, 2nd Lieutenant, Captain Zaccheus Wright's (8th) co., Col. Eleazer Brook's regt.; list of officers of a regiment drafted from Middlesex Co. militia and ordered to march to Horse Neck by Brig. Oliver Prescott Sept. 26, 1776; also, Lieutenant, Captain Wright's co., Col. Brook's regt., company return dated Camp at White Plains, Oct. 31, 1776; said Spaulding reported as in camp at White Plains and fit for duty.

Copied by Jane Drury 3/10/73

Gravestone in Forefathers' Cemetery

Sacred to the memory of
Mr. Joseph Spalding
Who died July 31 1820 AET 64
In hope of eternal life which God
Who cannot lie hath promised to
Believers in Christ.

He was among the brave assertors &
defenders of the liberties of his country
at Bunker Hill, where he opened the
battle by firing upon the enemy before
orders were given; & after enjoying for
many years the blessings of civil &
religious liberty in common with others.

He "sunk to rest
With all his country's honors blest."





55 Spaulding road

1/30/2005 F. Merriam







55 Spaulding Road, A. I. Emerson Photo

Chelmsford Historical Society, Index BBH349







Spaulding Road #55

11/5/2005 F. Merriam

