



ACTON, MA
GZ WINDSOR
ROLL 4-24A-25
SCHULER
11/89

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA

FORM NO.

C

278

Town Acton

Address 62 Windsor Avenue

Historic Name Webster S. Blanchard (1920s)

Use: Present single family residential

Original single family residential

DESCRIPTION

Date circa 1925

Source visual/directories

Style Colonial Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboards

Outbuildings garage

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

none

Condition Good

Moved no Date _____

Acreage 1.8 acres

Setting The newest house in a row of

late 19th century residences lining this

residential street adjacent to West Acton

village.

Recorded by A. Dodson/ Schuler and Johnson

Organization Acton Historical Commission

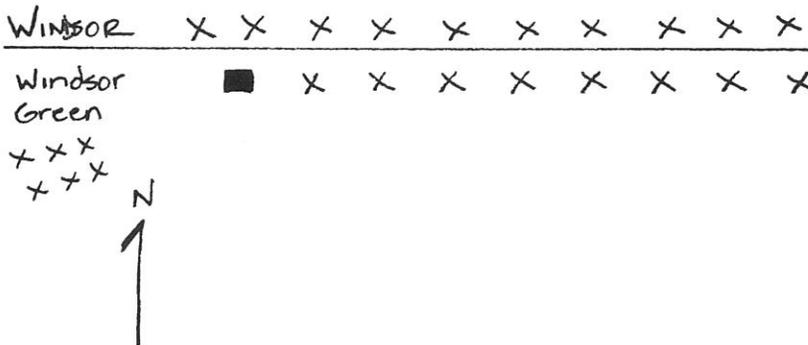
Date May 1988/ March 1990

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s). Indicate north

Indicate north

F-2B-53



UTM REFERENCE _____

USGS QUADRANGLE _____

SCALE _____

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

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

See Inventory Continuation Form

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

See Inventory Continuation Form

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

AHS Files

Vital Records

Phalen, History of the Town of Acton; Fletcher, Acton in History.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: ACTON	Form No: C-270
Property Name: 62 Windsor Ave	

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

62 WINDSOR AVENUE / ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The gambrel-roof house at 62 Windsor Avenue rests on a fieldstone foundation and is sheathed in wide clapboards. It is an extremely well preserved example of the Dutch Colonial form of the Colonial Revival style. It is the only such house type in West Acton village. Symmetrical in plan, the house consists of a large 1 1/2 story gambrel block, sited with its three bay facade to the street, and a small rear flat-roof entrance ell attached to the back of the north wall.

The main facade is dominated by the low sloping gambrel roof punctuated by a large shed-roof dormer. Within the dormer are two sets of paired 6/1 windows flanked by wooden shutters. The overhanging roof creates a first story porch supported by tapered paneled wood columns with molded capitals. Within the porch are two sets of paired 6/1 windows bordered by shutters, and a simply enframed entrance with a multi-light pane and paneled door flanked by 3/4 leaded glass sidelights. The north and south gambrel end facades are lined with unevenly arranged 6/1 windows. On the north side, the rear ell encloses a recessed entrance marked by a tapered column like that on the front. On the south facade, a tall exterior fieldstone chimney pierces the roof.

There is a hipped roof, clapboard-clad, two car garage at the rear of the property with a pergola attached to the north side.

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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Community: ACTON	Form No: C-270
Property Name: 62 Windsor Avenue	

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

62 WINDSOR AVENUE / HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:

This house was built circa 1920's by Webster S. Blanchard on land owned for years by the Blanchard family. Webster Blanchard (1894-1953) was active in local government, serving on the Finance Committee, and other town boards in the 1930s and 1940s. Webster Blanchard was the son of Arthur Blanchard, (56 Windsor) and grandson of Luke Blanchard (see 560-564 Massachusetts Avenue). The Blanchard family ran a successful apple marketing business in West Acton and Boston as well as other ventures.

Webster Blanchard served as vice president and director of the New England Brick Company (Boston) and the Economic Machinery Company of Worcester, president and director of the Woodward Lumber Company of Brattleboro, Vt., a Corporator of the Franklin Savings Bank of Boston, a Trustee of the Middlesex Institution for Savings of Concord, and the President of Howe Lumber of Marlboro. In 1946, Mr. Blanchard, together with his father and wife, formed the Blanchard Foundation which donated a new school building to Town of Boxborough and has continued to fund educational projects in the community.

Windsor Avenue was extended south from the village and improved in the 1860s and 1880s. The newest house in a row of Victorian residences, built on Windsor Street, the Webster Blanchard residence represents the last phase in West Acton's development during the period of rapid growth from 1845 to 1930. These houses reflect the prosperity of manufacturing and agriculture in West Acton during this period. After the 1845 arrival of the railroad, West Acton grew from a rural outpost to a thriving community that supported the surrounding apple business and local industry. In addition to the Blanchard's apple business, West Acton manufactureries included the Hall Brothers Pail and Churn Factory (230-236 Central), E.C. Parker and Sons cider and grist mills (239 Arlington), the Knowlton Cigar Factory (525 Mass Ave), and other businesses.

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