FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
J3/7	Maynard		ACT.671

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Sketch Map

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Recorded by: Dianne L. Siergiej

Organization: Acton Historical Commission

Date: March 2010

Town: Acton

Place *(neighborhood or village)*:

Address: 248 High Street

Historic Name: Selma A. and John E. Berglind Residence

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction: Early Twentieth Century

Source: Style and local maps; See Bibliography*

Style/Form: American Four-Square

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material

Foundation: Field Stone

Wall/Trim: Vinyl Siding

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations *(with dates)*:

Condition: Good

Moved: X no _ yes Date:

Acreage: 1.51 Acres; 65,776 SF

Setting: Located in a moderately-settled, residential neighborhood on an early, inter-community connector.

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION __ *See continuation sheet.*
Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Although little residential construction occurred in Acton between the World Wars, a number of American Four Square and Bungalow house forms were built in subdivisions or as in-fill along existing roadways. This Colonial Revival/Four Square is representative of the former.

Typical of the form, the 2 ½-story, 2 x 2-bay, 24' x 26' main block has a full-width, 7'- deep, hipped-roof, front porch. The plain, square posts are likely replacements as is the rail of widely-spaced balusters. A 1-story, 16' x 6', hip-roofed section, accessed by an open porch, partially extends across the rear (E) elevation. Hip-roofed dormers center both the facade and north slopes of the pyramidal-roof on the main block. An interior chimney penetrates the roof near the apex.

Vinyl siding covers both eaves and wall detail, but a protrusion above the window lintel line suggests a string course denoting a change in facing, typical of the house form, may exist underneath. The main entry retains a period, wood paneled, cottage door with square light. Fenestration primarily consists of 1/1, double-hung replacement sash, but a 2/1, original window remains in the facade dormer. Wide windows occupy the westernmost bay of the south elevation and a diamond paned transom remains on a similarly-wide, replacement window overlooking the front porch. A modern, 3-part, casement window has been installed at the east end of the north elevation.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE X *See continuation sheet.*
Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Much of what became South Acton Village has been identified as about half of the 2,000-acre holding granted in 1654 to Major Simon Willard of Concord. This area of Acton, originally part of the Willard Farm, has been described as extending approximately from Parker Street to Liberty Street, along the present boundary of Stow Street north to Coughlin Street. Part of this Acton portion of Willard s property was sold ca. 1660 to the Concord Iron Works Company. Six hundred acres of the Iron Work s purchase were bought in 1701 by brothers, Ephraim and Samuel Jones and their associate, Jonathan Knight. They quickly established a fulling mill (1702) and a saw mill (1706) on Fort Pond Brook at the intersection of what became Main and High Streets (Mill Corner). These enterprises were the genesis of an industrial village. Other early inhabitants bought land from the Iron Works Company and settled in the vicinity of the mills.

Known as Mill Corner throughout the eighteenth century, South Acton was largely limited to the mills, a few residences, Jones Tavern (1732, expanded in 1750), a store, a cider mill and a few, scattered farmsteads on the outer edges of the village. Ammi Ruhamah Faulkner purchased the mills in 1742 and soon added a grist mill to the site. His son, Francis Faulkner, enlarged and modernized the fulling mill in 1790. Several, dispersed houses were added before the crucial event in the growth of the area, arrival of the railroad in 1844.

The availability of this modern mode of transportation promoted development which advanced settlement at Mill Corner into a thriving village. Other mill privileges were utilized, several, commercial enterprises were founded and numerous, additional residences were constructed. Woodworking mills at 81 River Street, which burned in 1895, were replaced by a wire ferrule mill in 1902 (later reconverted to a woodworking mill) and a textile mill built at 53 River Street (none extant due to a fire in 1951). A hotel, Central Hall (1852, commercial and meeting hall), grocery store and Exchange Hall (1860) were erected to service commercial and social needs. Rapid, residential development on School Street accompanied these advances. An early subdivision was created on Maple Street and at the turn of the twentieth century, new homes were built on Main Street (north of Exchange Square) and on Prospect Street. A succession of three, district schoolhouses and formation of religious societies (Universalists,

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued)

1858; a second Congregational Society, 1876) reflected this growth and helped define South Acton as a distinct village. Most of the mills continued to operate into the early twentieth century.

This dwelling does not appear on local historical maps. The first residents to be connected with this house using local sources are Swedish immigrants, Selma A. (age 52) and John E. Berglind (age 52), who had immigrated to the United States in 1894 and 1891 respectively. John E. Berglind is listed in the 1930 Federal Census of Acton as a foreman at the Powder Mill. They shared a household with their children, Ruth H. Berglind and J. Wendell Berglind, both age 16. The family apparently moved here ca. 1930 from Somerville, Massachusetts where John E. Berglind worked as a machinist. Selma A. Berglind survived her husband and remained here at least through 1963.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES __ *See continuation sheet.*

Ancestry.com. U. S. Federal Censuses, 1920 and 1930.

Acton Directories. 1913, 1932, 1947, 1950, 1955 and 1963,

Massachusetts Historical Commission. Reconnaissance Survey Town Report, Acton. 1980.

Maps and Atlases

Bailey, O. H. South Acton, West Acton and Acton Center. Boston, 1892.

Beers, F. W. Acton. County Atlas of Middlesex Massachusetts. New York, 1875.

Hales, John G. Plan of the Town of Acton in the County of Middlesex, 1830-1831.

Tuttle, Horace F. Historical Map of Acton showing Occupants of the Old Homesteads and the Old Town Ways, 1890.

Walker, Geo. H. & Co. Atlas of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, 1889. Boston: Geo. H. Walker & Co., 1889.

Walling, H. F. County Atlas of Middlesex Massachusetts. Boston, 1856.

__ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; *If checked, see attached National Register Criteria Statement.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET 248 High Street

Area **Form No.** ACT. 657 671