

PH 0504 131

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 19 1977
DATE ENTERED FEB 14 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Edward Devotion House
AND/OR COMMON same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 347 Harvard Street
CITY, TOWN Brookline VICINITY OF Boston
STATE Massachusetts CODE 025 COUNTY Norfolk CODE 021

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Town of Brookline
STREET & NUMBER Town Hall, 333 Washington Street
CITY, TOWN Brookline VICINITY OF STATE Massachusetts CODE 02146

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Norfolk County Registry of Deeds
STREET & NUMBER 650 High Street
CITY, TOWN Dedham STATE Massachusetts CODE 02026

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth
DATE 1977 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Massachusetts Historical Commission
CITY, TOWN Boston STATE Massachusetts CODE 02108

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Edward Devotion House is located at 347 Harvard Street in Brookline. The house is surrounded by a low picket fence and tall maple trees. The lot is encircled by the driveway for the Edward Devotion School, which surrounds the house on three sides. The school land was purchased by the Town in 1891 for the purpose of erecting a school with funds left by Edward Devotion in his will. The house site lies just west of Coolidge Corner, a commercial center in Brookline. The area west of the house is residential.

In 1685 the Devotion property consisted of 102 acres on both sides of Harvard Street (which had been laid out in 1662 as the Road to the Collages, [sic] which was "To go... by the Goodman Devotions"). Edward Devotion built a house and barn on the property, but these were torn down by the time Edward Devotion, Jr. sold the lot to his adopted son, Solomon Hill, in 1740. The present house was erected by Solomon Hill some time after this date. It now stands approximately 100 feet back from Harvard Street.

The building is the finest example of mid-18th century Colonial architecture remaining in Brookline today. It is a small house with a gambrel roof extended at the first pitch to form a lean-to at the rear.

The 2½ story house has a central chimney, and is sheathed in clapboards painted yellow. The corner boards, door and window architraves, and eaves are painted white. Fenestration is varied and of contrasting scale. All windows have a plain sill and a molded, slightly projecting cornice.

The asymmetrical south facade is three bays wide, with the entrance placed at the western end. The wooden door is flanked by a molded pilaster on either side and headed by a molded cornice supporting a triangular pediment. The two first story windows are 12/12. The second story windows are 12/8 with their lintels directly beneath the eaves.

The east elevation has a 12/12 window on the first and the second story of the northern end, with a small six light casement above and slightly south. The southern end of the elevation has a 12/12 on the first story, a 12/8 directly above on the second story, and a smaller ~~12/8~~^{8/8} overhead in the attic.

The west elevation has a 12/12 window on both the first and the second story, and an 8/8 above and slightly south in the attic. The northern end of the elevation has a 2½ story Beverly jog. The south facade of this jog has a door headed by four lights and a molded cornice. A 12/12 window stands directly overhead on the second story with a ~~12/8~~^{8/8} window above that. The west elevation of the jog has a single 12/12 on the first and the second story at the northern end. Most of the original interior detail remains, including H and HL hinges, a brass lift latch, the board and batten front door, four and six panel interior doors, and a molded wooden handrail supported by turned balusters and a square topped newel post.

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Edward Devotion House

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The original fireplace wall is panelled with crosseted corners above. The more recent fireplace wall in the "new" kitchen at the rear of the house is also panelled, and has a molded architrave and mantel framing the fireplace. Summer beams and girts are encased. Some of the fireplaces have been covered over, but most of the original woodwork is intact.

When the school was constructed in 1891, extensive repair work was executed on the house under the direction of William G. Preston, architect. Paint and plaster were applied and the house was plumbed and wired. The structure was raised four feet on its original foundation and a new sill constructed. Most of the clapboards were replaced but the original nails were reused. Wherever possible the original sash was repaired, and the old glass reset. The top of the chimney was relaid, and the roof resingled. In 1908 Kilham and Hopkins made minor alterations, such as latch and window repair and new floors in some of the rooms.

The original house was one room deep with a hall, parlor, and present kitchen on the first story, and a bath and bedroom on the second. In approximately 1775-1800 rooms were added at the rear of the house, and the gambrel roof extended. The Beverly jog was added at this time. It consisted of a kitchen with a room below, and two and ½ rooms above.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1745 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Solomon Hill

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Edward Devotion House is significant as an excellent example of mid-18th century architecture, one of the few representative examples extant in Brookline. It is also significant for its long term association with the Devotions, a locally prominent Huguenot family, influential in the Town's educational, governmental, and religious affairs during the 17th and 18th centuries.

Edward Devotion, Sr. was born in 1621. He bought the land at Muddy River (Brookline) and was living there by 1645. He was a French Huguenot immigrant from La Rochelle, France where the DeVaution family are believed to be his ancestors. Devotion was a member of the church and a freeman. He married in 1649 and raised a family of ten.

John Devotion, born in 1659, served as had his father and his own son, Edward Jr., in such capacities as constable, tithingman, and perambulator of the town boundaries. John and his son Edward signed the petition for Brookline's separation from Boston. Edward Devotion, Jr. bequested numerous gifts to the church and town, with his residual estate being designated for the building and maintenance of a school near the center of town. The intent of his will was disregarded for many years, only to be fulfilled in 1891 with the first buildings of the Edward Devotion School, which today stands on the original Devotion property.

Heirlooms presented by descendants of the Devotion family are on display at the house, which now serves as a museum open to the public two days a week. Famous portraits of the Devotions and of other families are exhibited.

The Edward Devotion School was attended by John F. Kennedy. The reenactment of William Dawes' ride of 1775 takes place annually on April 19th. Dawes rode from Roxbury stopping at the Devotion House to warn the inhabitants of the arrival of the British.

The curators of the museum currently live in the house.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Publication No. 14, Brookline Historical Publications Society.
 Brookline Town Report, 1906.
 Curtis, John Gould, History of the Town of Brookline, Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1933.
 Little, Nina Fletcher, Some Old Brookline Houses, Brookline Historical Society, 1949.
 Proceedings of the Brookline Historical Society, January, 1902.
 Woods, Harriet F., Historical Sketches of Brookline, Robert S. Davis Co., Boston, 1874.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 1/3 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	3,2,4,9,8,0	4,6,8,9,9,7,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Blaine Mallory and Joseph Orfant, National Register Editor Helen C. McIntosh, Curator of the Devotion House		
ORGANIZATION	Massachusetts Historical Commission	DATE	August 8, 1977
STREET & NUMBER	294 Washington Street	TELEPHONE	617-727-8470
CITY OR TOWN	Boston	STATE	Massachusetts 02108

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *Elizabeth Reed Amador*
 TITLE Executive Director, Mass. Historical Commission
 DATE 9/6/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>Robert B. Rettig</i> DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE 2/14/78
ATTEST: <i>Charles [Signature]</i> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE 2.9.78









