

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

18-77	Boston North	O	BLM.44 BLM.733
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Town/City: Belmont

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Walnut Hill/Waverley

Address: 35 Cedar Road

Historic Name: M. Abbott Frazar House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1890

Source: maps, visual inspection

Style/Form: Queen Anne/Shingle Style

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: fieldstone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards, wood shingles

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

carriage house (BLM.733)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 19,982 SF

Setting: older house in neighborhood of distinctive single family dwellings mostly dating to early 20th century, many architect designed.

Photograph



Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): July 2014

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

35 CEDAR ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The house at 35 Cedar is a good and well-preserved dwelling bearing the imprint of both the Queen Anne and Shingle Styles that found concurrent popularity in the late 19th century. The irregularly massed 2 ½-story house displays typical Queen Anne style features including a complicated roof plan with a variety of roof forms including gables, a polygonal two-story tower with conical roof and gambrel side elevation. Other Queen Anne details include cut-away corners with scroll brackets, porches, chimneys and varied window forms including double-hung sash, small-paned units, an oval window on the front face of the tower and a Palladian window topped by an urn in the front gable. The use of wood shingles above the clapboarded first floor adds texture and unifies and the shingles are cut in a variety of patterns including but not limited to sawtooth, octagon, diamond and more ornate patterns. Changes have been minor and include the enclosure of the front porch and a rear addition.

A driveway extends along the west side of the house terminating at an original carriage house (BLM.733). The side-gabled, two-story building has broad gable wall dormers on the front and rear elevations and a small cupola rising from the ridge. A paneled barn door is centered on the north elevation facing the street.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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.

This house predates the Walnut Hill development which was developed by prominent local resident Winthrop L. Chenery in 1910. Cedar Road was laid out in 1889 through land then owned and subdivided by Harriet L. Stone. There is no house on this site at the time of the 1889 map. By the time of the 1898 a house and carriage house had been built, labeled on the 1898 map as being owned by "M.A. Frazer". The lot then, like today, contained 19,982 square feet.

Marston Abbott Frazar (1859-1925) was a Boston taxidermist and furrier. He was born in Watertown, the son of George A. Frazar, a shipbuilder and Chinese importer. After several years of extensive travelling all over the world to collect birds, in 1889 he purchased a taxidermist business in Boston at 93 Sudbury Street and opened the M. Abbott Frazar Co., taxidermists and dealers in natural history specimens and supplies. Also, in 1889 he married Helen Morgan and soon thereafter this house was probably built. Mrs. Frazar was a well-known "tourist's agent", arranging or conducting European trips for several thousand persons (*Cambridge Tribune*, May 11, 1907).

In 1910 the Frazars moved to Brookline and Helen Frazar sold the house to Robert and Ann Husband. Robert (1864-1939) was a local contractor and builder. He was born in St. Andrew's, Scotland. He came to Belmont in 1888 and a year later sent for his bride of four years, the former Ann Peddie. He was also a Mason, active in the American Legion and served as the town fence viewer for more than thirty years. After her husband's death Annie Husband sold the house to Leland and Katherine Darrow in 1942 (Book 6620, Page 322). The Darrows continued to own the property until 1991 (Book 21110, Page 514). Renner Wunderlich and Margaret Lazarus purchased the property in 1991 and sold it in 2010 to Christian Abouzeid and Kathleen Crowley (Book 54937, Page 29).

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Carriage House (BLM.733)

