

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
204 WASHINGTON STREET BOSTON MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
	24-9



Belmont  
 Address 100 Common Street  
 Historic Name Henry O. Underwood House

Present condominium units  
 Original single family residence

DESCRIPTION:

1885

Source family records/Belmont room

Style Shingle Style

Architect Hartwell and Richardson

Exterior wall fabric wood shingle

Outbuildings New condominium units

Major alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

new windows and flesh colored paint

in condominium conversion,

Moved NA Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. acreage over 10 acres

Setting Set back from the road behind a

stone wall, with new Colonial Revival

units in front yard.

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.

*See attached*

Recorded by Nora Lucas

Organization Boston University

Date November 1982

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

100 Common Street (BEL-82-14-18A) is a rare example of an intact architect-designed (Hartwell and Richardson) Shingle Style house in Belmont, and is significant under Criterion C of the National Register.

Although the house is now a multi-family, rather than single-family dwelling as it was designed, its rehabilitation has been sensitive, and the asymmetrical composition and facade have been respected. Significant architectural features include a center turret, rounded hipped-roof dormer, front porch, and a

(Continued)

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

The Shingle Style house was designed by Hartwell and Richardson in 1885 for Henry O. Underwood, owner of a successful meat canning business, member of a prominent Belmont family, and town benefactor. Underwood probably knew of the architect's work because his father William James Underwood had served as chairman of the building committee for the 1881 Town Hall, also by Hartwell and Richardson.

H.O. Underwood's commitment to Belmont's improvement was evidenced by his service as: School Committee Member, Selectman, and Library Trustee. He was also active in the suburban real estate development of areas such as Belmont Hill (Form \_\_\_\_\_). Underwood further illustrated his interest in the town by such lavish gifts as The Underwood Memorial Library (Form \_\_\_\_\_), and The Underwood Pool and Playground (Form \_\_\_\_\_ D<sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_).

His obituary stated: "Whether acting officially or not, he kept constantly in touch with town matters, and the extent to which the fine development of Belmont as a residence town has been due to his influence and advice can hardly be too highly estimated."

The building is now divided into multi-unit condominium housing, and the old front yard is now occupied by three Georgian Revival cluster units. Ironically, in choosing to rehabilitate the Shingle Style house, the most romantic of the Colonial Revival styles, a very traditional, symmetrical and literal representation was chosen.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

"Henry O. Underwood," Boston Transcript, Aug. 24, 1921

100 COMMON STREET, H.O. UNDERWOOD HOUSE, INVENTORY CONTINUATION SHEET

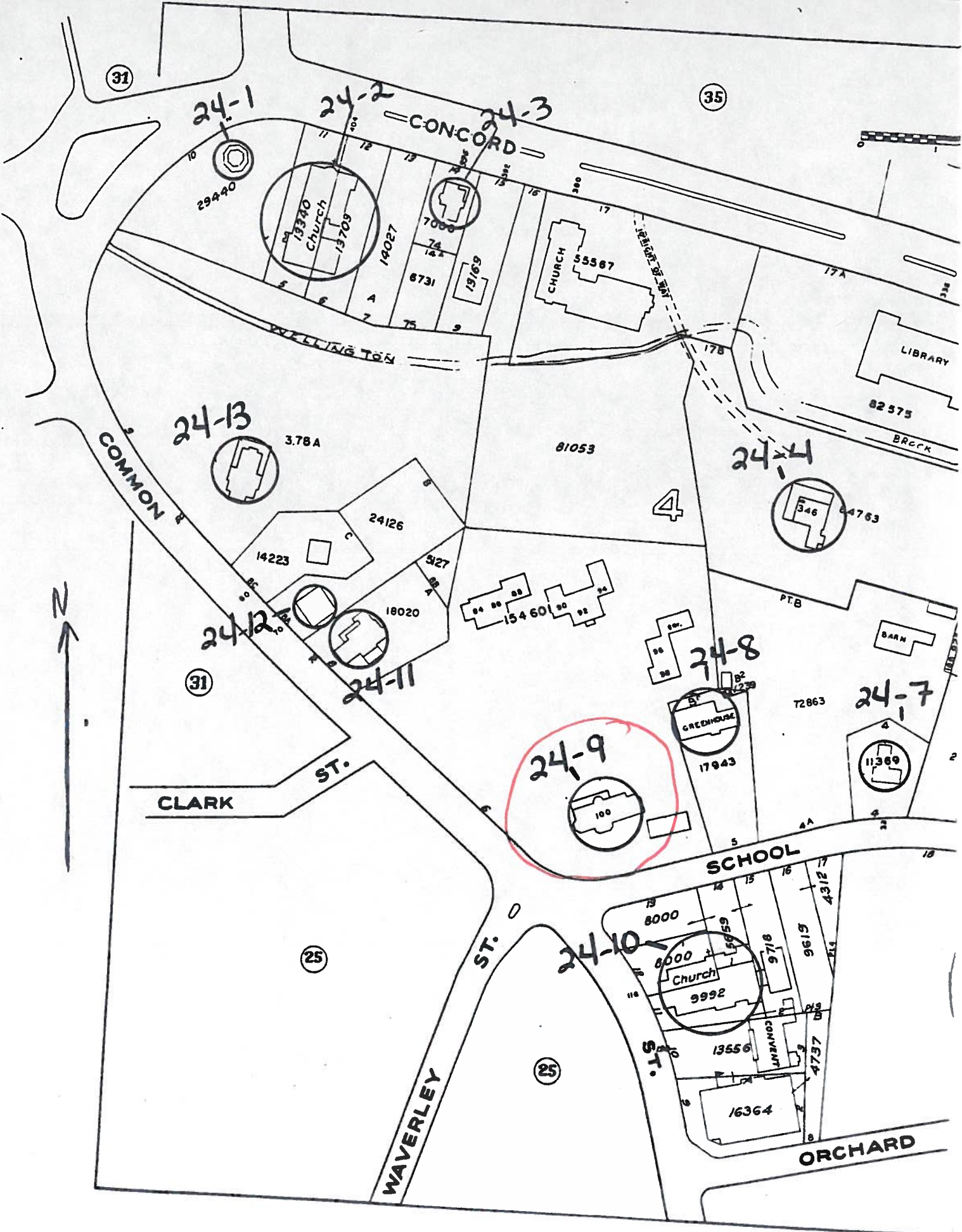
Architectural Significance Continued

recessed porch in the gable, and patterned shingles.

The once dark-stained shingles have been painted a pale pink to blend with newer Colonial Revival units (BEL-82-14-19&20A), set at a respectable distance from the main house.

Historical Significance Continued

100 Common Street represents the first house built by an Underwood on what was already a large family estate, and is significant under Criterion A of the National Register for its association with a family important in the development of the canning industry.



31

35

24-1

24-2

24-3

CONCORD

29440

13340 Church  
13709

14027

7000

6731

13169

CHURCH 55567

17A

LIBRARY

82575

BRICK

24-13

3.78A

81053

24-4

COMMON

14223

24126

4

346 4763

24-12

24-11

15460

24-8

PTB

BARN

72863

24-7

31

24-9

GREENHOUSE  
17943

11369

CLARK

ST.

24-10

SCHOOL

25

25

ST.

8000

8000 Church  
9992

13556

9718

9619

4312

16364

ORCHARD

