

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA Z <sup>3</sup>	FORM NO. 9-5
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Belmont

Address 100 Dalton Road

Historic Name Edward F. Skahan House

Present residence

Original residence

DESCRIPTION:  
c. 1880

Source Belmont Building Dept.

Style Queen Anne

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior wall fabric vinyl siding

Outbuildings none

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

vinyl siding added and some detail removed (after 1950)

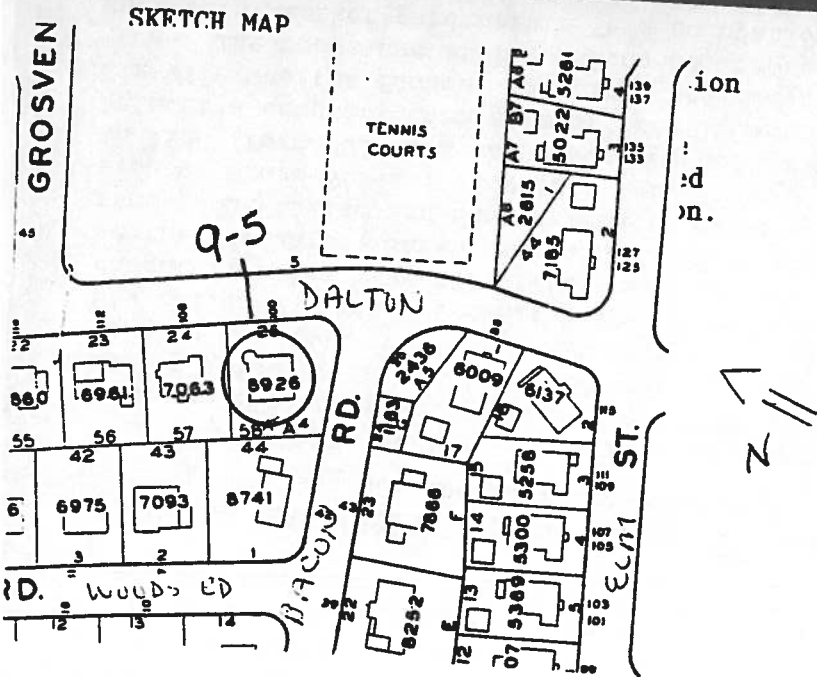
Moved from 91 Grove St. Date 1950

Approx. acreage 8,900 sq.ft.

Setting well setback on large corner

lot facing playground; foundation plantings

many trees and shrubs



Recorded by Frankie Lieberman

Organization Boston University Preservation Studies

Date 22 December 1982

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The significance of this house lies in its architectural style: it is the only single-family Queen Anne style residence in the southeast section of Belmont. Although the house has been moved and its appearance has been altered by the addition of vinyl siding, its stylistic characteristics -- irregular hipped roof with gable and dormers, corner turret, asymmetrical window placement and projecting north wall bay -- distinguish it from the speculatively built 1950s split-level and cape-type houses which surround it. The Queen Anne style is a 19th C. statement of individuality while the capes and ranches are symbols of 20th C. conformity.

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

The Skahan family were active in the community both politically and socially from the time Patrick Skahan arrived from Ireland in 1849. Initially working as a market gardener for William Richardson, in 1871 Patrick purchased his own 15-acre farm in Harvard Lawn, and built this Queen Anne house to raise his seven children in. His children lived all their lives in Belmont and were active in the community. One daughter, Ellen, was the first woman to serve on the Belmont Warrant Committee and another daughter, Sarah, married Chief of Police John J. O'Brien. Patrick's two sons John William and Edward Francis owned very successful market gardens on either side of Grove Street. Edward's farm (the original land) became part of the cemetery in 1950 (Form 801) and the homestead had to be moved to Dalton Road. Edward was Belmont's cemetery commissioner from 1908 to 1915 and a selectman from 1913 to 1915. His wife was the founder and first president of the Payson Park PTA.

The house now at 100 Dalton Rd. represents the home of one of Belmont's most successful market gardeners. This occupation was that most prevalent in Belmont from incorporation until refrigerated rail transportation made such pursuits obsolete. The house stands as testimony to the importance of market gardens in Belmont's history even though the greenhouses which once accompanied it are long gone. (See also Area FormX -10-2.)

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

Betts, Richard, The Streets of Belmont. . . , pp.203-206  
Beers, 1875 Atlas  
Stadley, 1898 Atlas  
Belmont Public Library, Belmont Room Skahan Family file