

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA x ³	FORM NO. 10-3
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108



Belmont

Address 106 Grove Street

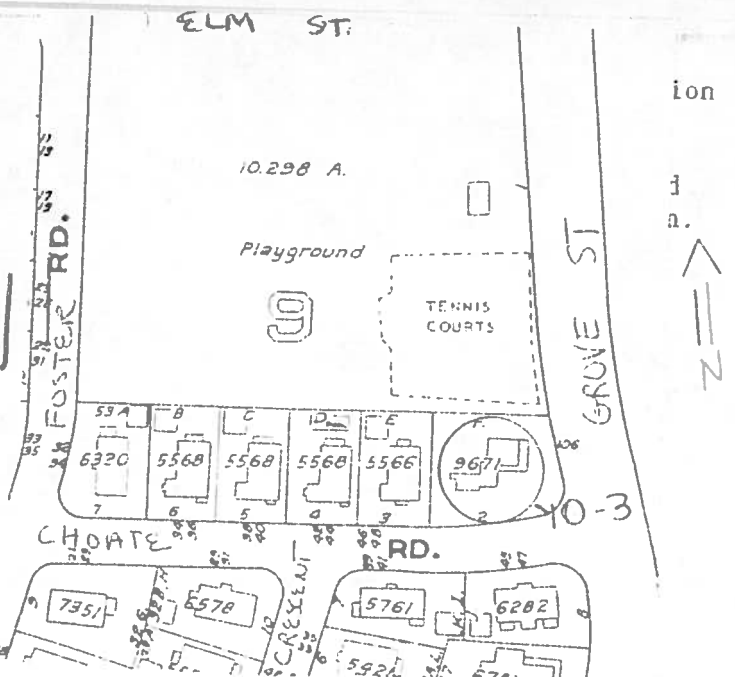
Historic Name Choate Estate

Present Residence

Original Residence

DESCRIPTION:
c.1865

Source Building Department 1956 Atlas



Style Greek Revival

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings Garage

Major alterations (with dates) none

Moved n/a Date _____

Approx. acreage 9,671 sq.ft.

Setting corner lot, well protected by shrubs and evergreens from both Grove Street and Choate Road as well as from abutting playground to the north.

Recorded by Frankie Lieberman
 Organization Boston University Preservation Studies
 Date 12 December 1982

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This modest three-bay gable-end to street Greek Revival house is atypical to the southeasterly section of Belmont: there are no other intact examples of this style. By 1865 the Greek Revival was somewhat out of date having been superceded by Second Empire and Italic styles. But this house is evocative of the earlier Greek Revival homes on Pleasant Street -- now in the Historic District -- with its central chimney, steeply pitched roof, corner pilasters and verandah. The ell in the rear does not detract from the building's overall symmetry. The house's relatively late construction date, corner lot location on busy Grove Street and its unaltered appearance denote its landmark status.

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

The historical significance of 106 Grove Street lies more in its illustration of estate development in Belmont than in the importance of the Choate family per se to the town. The intermediate step of Belmont's development from subsistence farming, to market gardens and estates, to suburban subdivision is shown in this house. After John Perkins Cushing began the trend of country estates with "Bellmont" (Area Form B) others followed suit, although in not so grand a manner. The Choate estate, situated on one and three-quarter acres of former Richardson farm land, is an example of this modified country retreat ethic prevalent after the town's incorporation in 1859. The extension of the railroad from Boston to Fitchburg via West Cambridge and Watertown (now Belmont) in 1843 enabled the affluent upper middle class to have homes in these then rural areas. This particular house is important because only one such other "estate" house, not related to a farm or market garden, was built in this part of Belmont and it was razed in 1924 (Area Form V).

Francis A. and Georgianna Choate were married in 1871 and moved into the house at 106 Grove Street. Georgianna survived her husband by thirty-one years; upon her death in 1921 Francis' nephew, George H. Carleton, took possession of the estate. When Skahan Gardens was subdivided for housing in 1928 a road named for the Choate family was put through the southerly portion of the property, running from Dalton Road to Grove Street. In 1935 Mr. Carleton subdivided the remaining property in eight house lots -- the houses were all built by 1939 in styles similar to those in Skahan Gardens. Mr. Carleton, then 100 years of age, was still living in the Choate house when he died in 1953.

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

- Betts, Richard, The Streets of Belmont . . . , p.217
Benton, Frances, "The Story of Belmont"
Beers, 1875 Atlas
Stadley, 1898 Atlas