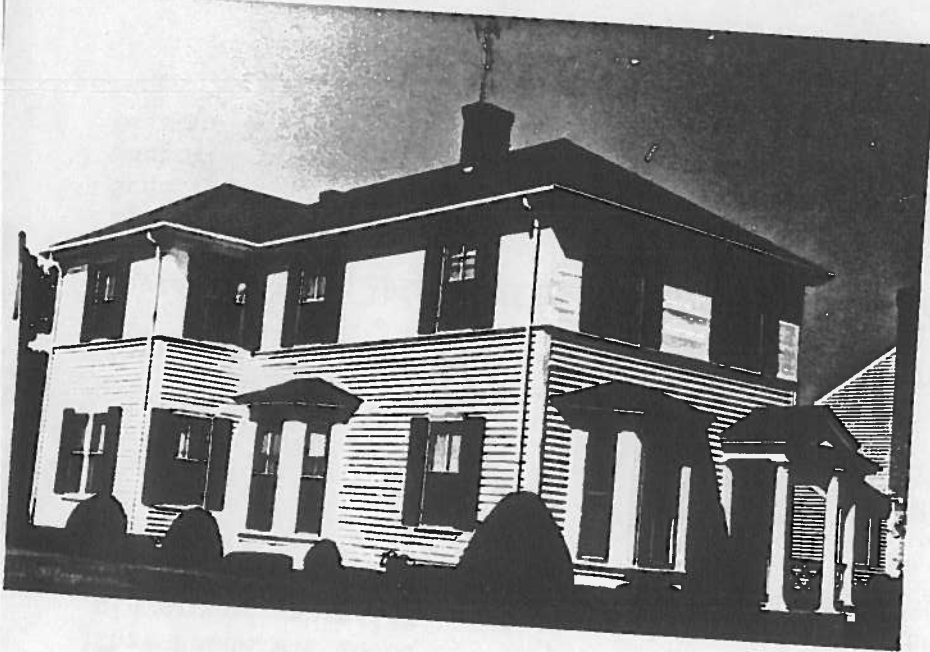


FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
Z ³	9-4



Belmont

Address 196 Grove Street

Historic Name R.L. Richardson House

Present residence

Original residence

DESCRIPTION:

between 1854 & 1874

Source Frost & Beers maps

Style Greek Revival

Architect

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings garage

Major alterations (with dates)

roof raised, second story added - 1940

Moved from 168 Grove St. Date 1940

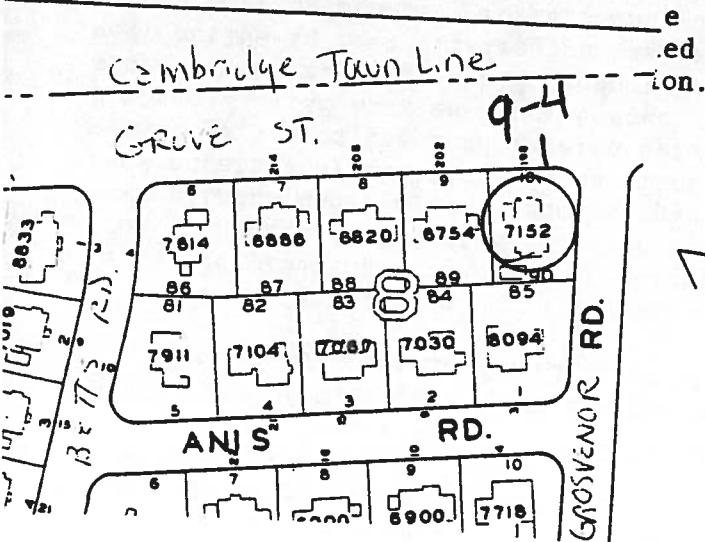
Approx. acreage 7,152 sq. ft.

Setting large corner lot, facing onto

Grove St., abutting playground

SKETCH MAP

Show property location



Recorded by Frankie Lieberman
Boston University
Organization Preservation Studies

Date 28 December 1982

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

Although this house has been moved and significantly altered by the additions of a flush-boarded second story and first story projecting bay window, it is still evocative of the Greek Revival style popular in Belmont farm and estate houses in the mid-19th C. (Cf. Choate Estate (X³-10-3). Some Greek Revival features still exist, such as the projecting portico, north facing verandah, simple window frames and plain corner boards. The simple massing of the plan -- short end to street with side hall entry and shortened ell -- are typical of Belmont's Greek Revival structures.

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

The significance of this house lies in the role the Richardson family played in the development of the market garden industry in Belmont (see Form E⁴-21-1). From 1630 when the first Richardson settled in Watertown the family was active in town affairs and played a leading role in the Revolution. This house was built on land acquired by the Richardsons after 1853. Henry Richardson built a successful market garden on the land located between School and Grove Streets (Area Form Y³). His son William married Grace Foster in 1898 and her brother, George, married William's sister Eleanor. George and Eleanor Foster owned this home for many years. George was very active in town affairs, he was Cemetery Commissioner from 1936 to 1948 and was a town meeting member: Foster Road was named for him. In 1940 when this farm was being subdivided, the town decided that the playground on Grove Street needed to be enlarged to enhance the quality of life for the growing population. The original three acres of the playground was acquired from Julia D. Richardson in 1923. This house was moved to its present location at 196 Grove Street to allow for this playground expansion. The original granite steps that once led to the front door can still be seen in the playground wall on Grove Street.

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

Betts, Richard, The Streets of Belmont. . . , pp.203-206
Frost, 1853 Map
Beers, 1875 Atlas
Stadley, 1898 Atlas
Sanborn, 1922 Atlas
Belmont Building Department records