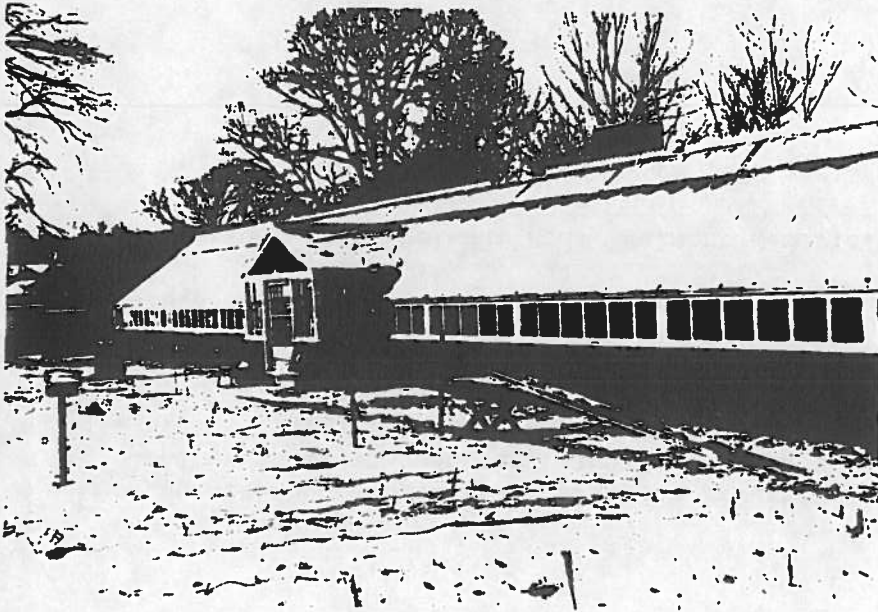


FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
C ²	24-8

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

20 School St



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

Belmont
 School Street
 Underwood Greenhouses

Present gardening
 Original same

DESCRIPTION:
 1898 & 1910

Source 1898 Atlas & Building permits

Style NA

Architect Lowden Burden

Exterior wall fabric brick, steel, & glass

Outbuildings NA

Major alterations (with dates) NA

Moved NA Date _____

Approx. acreage less than 1/2 acre

Setting placed well back from road, adjacent to other largely undeveloped yards

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The Underwood Greenhouses, built between 1898 and 1901, the last remaining greenhouses in Belmont, are illustrative of Belmont's significant horticultural history as a market garden for Boston and a town of carefully landscaped country estates on which gardening was an important hobby.

The largest house (BEL-82-19-5), thought to date from 1904, was built by Lowden Burden, who built similar greenhouses later at the Vale Estate. It is of steel construction, a significant technological achievement over iron, which easily rusted. A steel and iron top, with (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 greenhouses relate to both the scientific, horticultural, and athletic interests of the Underwood family, and to the practice of hothouse farming and gardening, so significant to Belmont's development.

The Underwoods were avid gardeners and the greenhouses were used for recreational gardening. Loring Underwood, a renowned landscape gardener, grew specimens for his work there as well.

The buildings relate, though, to the scientific farming in Belmont in the 19th-century, when Belmont farmers were some of the earliest to utilize the new technology of hot house farming. Eager to experiment with the newest scientific farming methods, the farmers of Belmont greatly increased their growing season and productivity by farming under glass.

Furthermore, as Belmont developed in the late 19th and early 20th-centuries, summer or estate residents began to build such greenhouses to fill their own pantries, gardens, and homes with vegetables and flowers.

The greenhouses as intact examples illustrating a period important in Belmont's development are significant under Criteria A and C of the National Register.

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

1898 Atlas

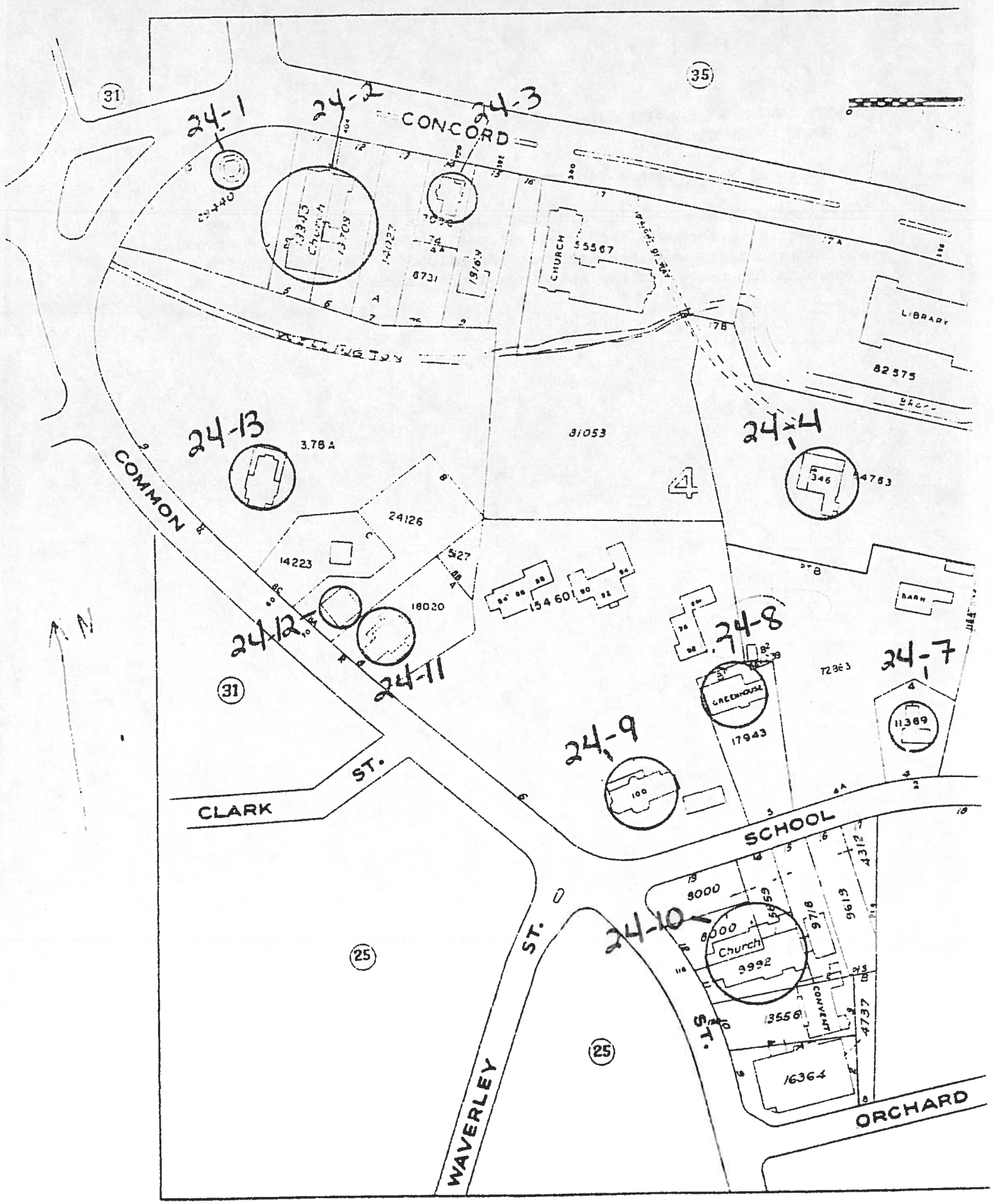
Underwood file, Belmont Room, Belmont Memorial Library

BELMONT INVENTORY CONTINUATION SHEET
UNDERWOOD GREENHOUSES

Architectural Significance Continued

is trimmed with fleur de lis cresting and rests on a red brick base.

A smaller greenhouse (BEL-82-19-4) was converted by H.O. Underwood to a squash court, complete with veiwing balcony, with chicken wire protection for the glass top and glass light fixtures.



31

35

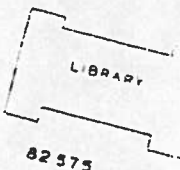
24-1

24-2

24-3

CONCORD

23440



24-13



31053

24-4



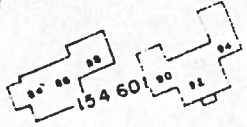
COMMON

3.78 A

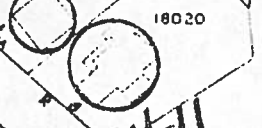
24126

4

14223



24-12



24-11

24-8



31

CLARK ST.

24-9



72363

24-7



CLARK

SCHOOL

ST.

24-10



25

WAVERLEY

25

16364

ORCHARD

