

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA <u>R³</u>	FORM NO. <u>45-4</u>
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108



City Belmont

Address 308 Lake Street

Historic Name Sylvester C. Frost House

Use: Present Residence

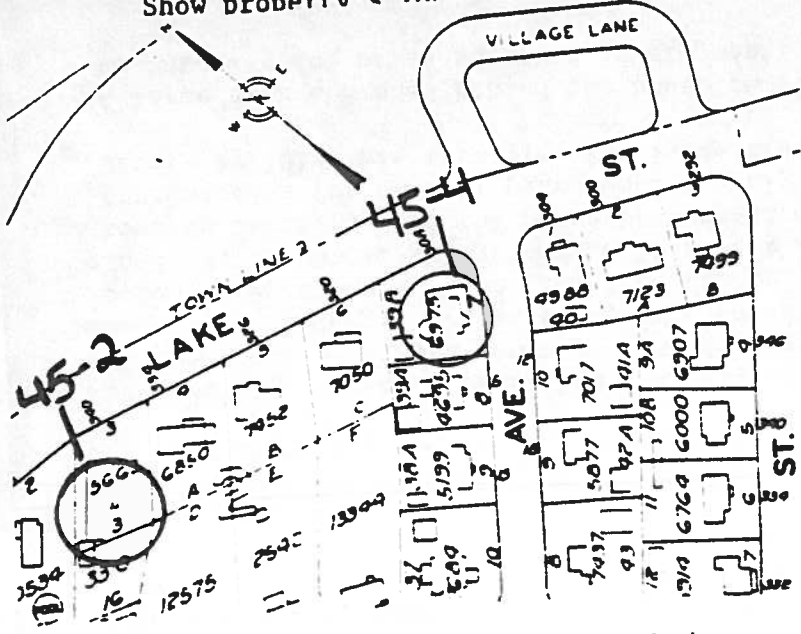
Original same

DESCRIPTION:

Year 1889

Source Historic District Commission File

Show property's location in relation to...



Style Colonial Revival

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric stucco/clapboards

Outbuildings Garage

Major alterations (with dates) _____

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 6,975 sq. ft.

Setting Single-family houses.

Recorded by Christopher Forbes Nash

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.)

Significant as the only large-scale 19th century Colonial Revival house in the area, the Sylvester C. Frost House is an important reminder of Belmont's former agricultural prosperity. The 2 1/2-story cross gable-roofed house has been stuccoed over on the first two floors. A five-columned front porch with gunstock posts and balusters highlights the facade which also features a fanlit entry and elongated 2/2 parlor windows. The site features extensive stone walls and fruit trees.

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

The 1889 Sylvester C. Frost house is significant as one of the principal farmhouses of the profitable 19th century Frost family market gardens that dominated this section of Belmont. Frost began farming and gardening in 1867 when he bought ten acres of land and a house from John Crosby, including four acres on Lake Street. In 1889, the house that stood on this site was moved 600 feet down Lake Street towards Cambridge and the present, much larger, house built. After harvesting strawberries for several years unprofitably, Frost turned to celery as his main crop. By 1919, his farm grew the largest variety of vegetables of any in Belmont.

A large barn and shed behind the house remained until the 1920's, but were torn down to make way for brisk suburban development.

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

Belmont Historic District Commission Files.