

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA R <sup>2</sup>	FORM NO. 25-7
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Belmont

ss 331 Waverley Street

ric Name Frank Robbins House

Present Single-family residence

Original Single-family residence

SCRIPTION:

c.1876

urce Belmont Historical Society Record

Style High Victorian Eclectic/Stick Style

Architect

Exterior wall fabric clapboards

Outbuildings carriage house/barn

Major alterations (with dates) -

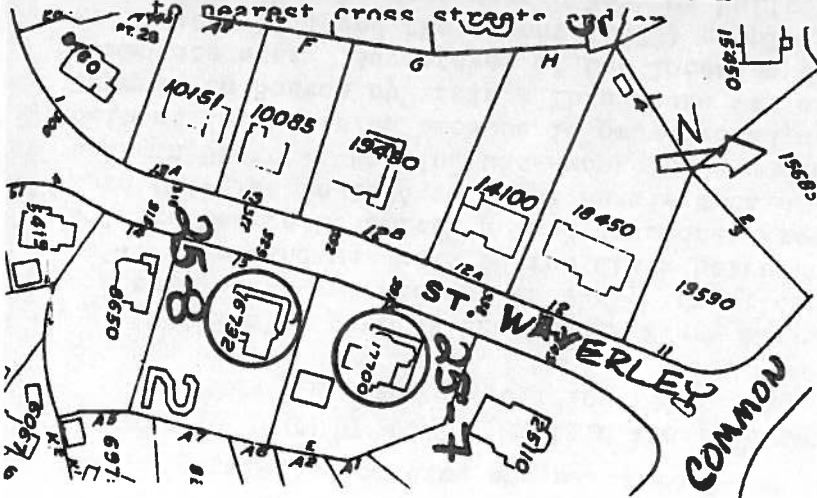
Moved - Date -

Approx. acreage less than 1 acre

Setting Curving section of Waverley  
near Common. Set amidst other historic  
residences.

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation  
to nearest cross streets



Recorded by Judy Williams

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.)

The Robbins House is an example of Victorian eclectic architecture, drawing from different styles, including the Stick Style. The basic form of the house is a three-bay rectangle with gable roof that becomes a hipped roof on the southwestern side. Important features are the simple balustraded veranda which wraps around one-half of the building, the two-tiered central bay window which rises through the porch roof to end in a gable decorated with brackets in the stick style, and the delicate belvedere at the peak of the roof. The gable decoration also appears in the northeastern gable. The original clapboarding and slate roof remain. The property also includes a shingled

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

Originally part of the Thomas Clark estate settled in the early 1700s, the site for this house was part of an early layout on "the Proposed Street to Waverley" in 1854. The land was held by the Clark heirs, however, until 1871 when eight acres were sold to George H. Smith, a land developer from Lincoln. Smith developed the land and sold this lot in 1874 to Frank Norris Robbins, a teller at the Metropolitan National Bank in Boston. Robbins was among the group of Boston suburbanites who came to Belmont in the 1870s because it provided an attractive rural setting within an easy commute to Boston by train. This house was one of the first to be built in the immediate area. Advantages of the location were its convenience to the train depot at Wellington Hill and the recent (1873) completion of Waverley Street to the Village of Waverley to the southwest. Robbins built the house at 331 Waverley in a style that reflected his status and romantic/rural ideals. It continued to be occupied by suburbanites as it was sold in 1889 to Herbert F. Rockwood, a dealer in paints and oils from Boston.

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

"The Frank Robbins House", The Belmont Citizen, February 21, 1974.

Beers' Map of Belmont, 1875.

Betts, Richard B. The Streets of Belmont and How They Were Named. 1974.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: <i>Belmont</i>	Form No: <i>25-7</i>
Property Name: <i>Frank Robbins Hse.</i>	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Architectural Significance:

two-stall barn with iron hay racks and an oats bin, now serving as a two-car garage.  
The entire property is one of the more architecturally distinctive 19th century dwellings  
in Belmont.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom