

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

F2 | 28-2



City Belmont  
Address 36 Sycamore Street  
Historic Name Daniel Butler residence

Present two-family residence  
Original single-family residence

DESCRIPTION:

Construction pre-1853  
Source C.J. Frost Map 1853

Style Gothic

Architect -

Exterior wall fabric shingles

Outbuildings -

Major alterations (with dates) converted to two-family house, c.1939

Moved - Date -

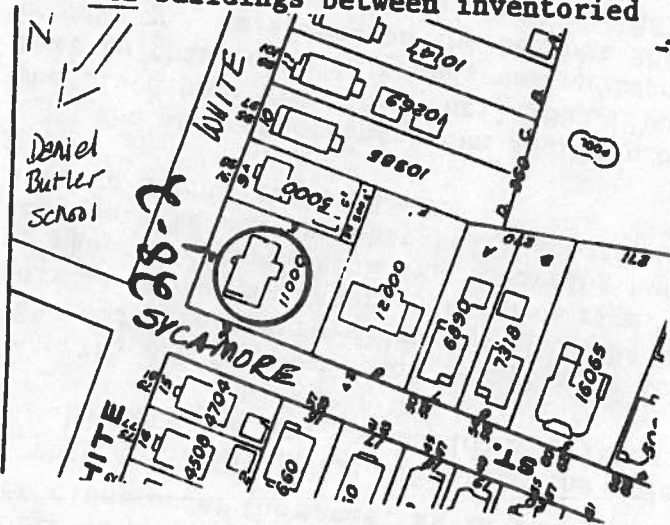
Approx. acreage less than 1 acre

Setting Older section of Waverley.

Opposite Daniel Butler School.

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried



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.)

One of the earliest extant buildings in Waverley, 36 Sycamore was constructed as a Gothic cottage, reflecting the romantic imagery being promoted by Davis and Downing in the 1840s and 1850s. Although altered, the house still displays its Gothic trim in the cross roof gable with decorative vergeboards and finial and drop at the apex. The original pointed arch tracery below the projection can also be seen. The portico and doorway reflect a lingering Greek Revival influence in the house, with the doric columns and the full sidelights and transom surrounding the door. Windows are set close under the eaves, as in the Greek Revival, and have been altered. The

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

The original owner of 36 Sycamore is not known, but the house appears on both the 1853 C.J. Frost Survey Map and the 1854 Waverley Land Company plan. It was one of only 11 houses in Waverley at this time, and its style is a significant reflection of the transition which was occurring between the Greek Revival and the Gothic cottage. It was probably built shortly after the Fitchburg Railroad opened up this area to settlement in 1843.

The most important known resident of the house was the Reverend Daniel Butler, who lived here from 1865 until 1893. Butler, for whom the local elementary school next to this house is named, was an important and active member of the Waverley community. He served on the Belmont School Committee for several years and represented Belmont in the state legislature of 1883. He was also one of the seven organizers of the Waverley Congregational Church, and, at the time of his death, was one of the "most respected men in town".

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

C.J. Frost Map, 1853.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Plan of Lands of the Waverley Company in Watertown, 1854.

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>Palmer</i>	Form No: <i>28-2</i>
Property Name: <i>David Butler House</i>	

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

Architecture Significance:

original sheathing, most likely clapboards, has been replaced with shingles. (One of the early features of this property was a pond located behind the house, shown on the 1875 atlas.)

Staple to Inventory form at bottom