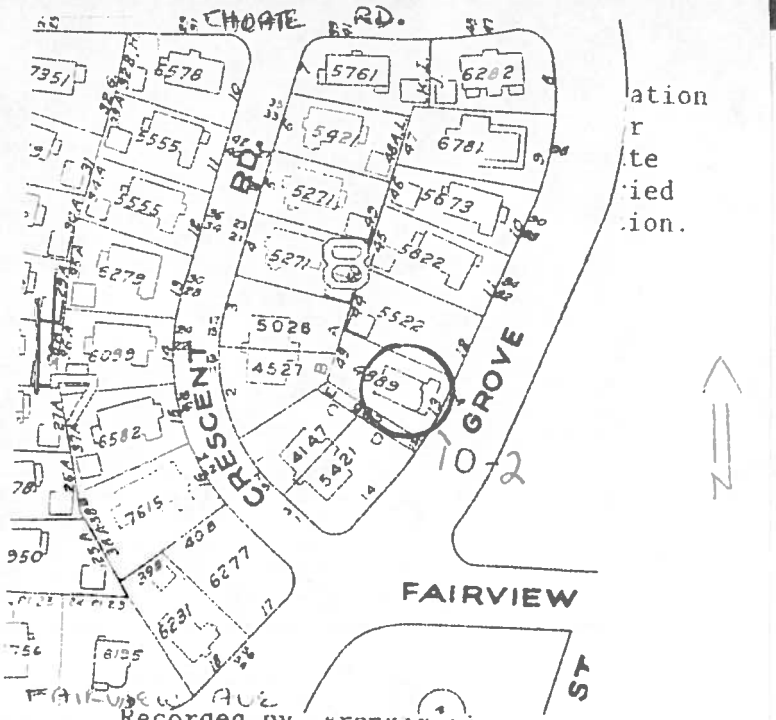
Joanne H. Monahan

AREA	FORM NO.
X^3	10-2

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108



n Belmont

ress 74 Grove Street

toric Name Skahan House

: Present Residence

Original Residence

ESCRIPTION:

e c.1880

ource Beers, 1875 Atlas
Stadley, 1898 Atlas

Style Shingle

Architect

Exterior wall fabric Shingle

Outbuildings garage

Major alterations (with dates) none

Moved n/a Date

Approx. acreage 10,411 sq.ft.

Setting double lot, protected from neighbors by many trees and shrubs even though sited directly at sidewalk

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Recorded by Frankie Liebeman
Boston University
Organization Preservation Studies

Date 12 December 1982

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The significance of this house lies in its architectural style: it is the only single family shingle style residence in the southeast section of Belmont. The irregular roof line and massing in addition to the asymmetrical window placement are atypical amongst its Colonial Revival and Craftsman neighbors. While there are numerous shingle style homes in other parts of Belmont few are in such immaculate condition, or still sited on their original open land. The vacant lot to the north and large yard of the house to the south together with the trees and shrubs which surround the property combine to maintain the original image of market garden estate house even though the (ctd)

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

The Skahan family were active in the community both politically and socially from the time Patrick Skahan arrived from Ireland in 1849. Initially working as a market gardener for William Richardson, in 1871 Patrick purchased his own fifteen-acre farm in Harvard Lawn (Area Form T^3). He had seven children who lived all their lives in Belmont. One daughter, Ellen, was the first woman to serve on the Belmont Warrant Committee and another daughter, Sarah, married Chief of Police John J. O'Brien. Patrick's two sons, John William and Edward Francis, owned very successful market gardens on either side of Grove Street. Edward's farm (the original land) became part of the town cemetery in 1950 (Form 801) and the homestead had to be moved to Dalton Road (Area Form Z^3). Edward was Belmont's cemetery commissioner from 1908 to 1915 and a selectman from 1913-1915. His wife was the founder and first president of the Payson Park PTA. John started another three acre farm across the street sometime prior to 1898 and later added six acres acquired from the Livermore family (Area Form W^3).

The house at 74 Grove Street was John's homestead and represents the home of one of Belmont's most successful market gardeners. This occupation was that most prevelant in Belmont from incoporation in 1859 until refrigerated rail transportation made such pursuits obsolete. The house stands as testimony to the importance of markets gardens in Belmont's history even though the greenhouses that once covered the property are now demolished.

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

Betts, Richard, The Streets of Belmont . . . , pp.203-206
Beers, 1875 Atlas
Stadley, 1898 Atlas
Belmont Public Library, Belmont Room, Skahan Family file

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
Belmont	10-2
Property Name: Skahan House	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

building fronts directly on Grove Street. Buildings with shingle style decoration within the area (especially on Marion Road (Streetscape T3a) only serve to highlight the distinction of 74 Grove Street.

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