

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

33-67	Boston North	AH	BLM.729
-------	--------------	----	---------

Town/City: Belmont

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Waverley

Address: 35 Agassiz Avenue

Historic Name:

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1893

Source: Williams, 1982

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: fieldstone

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

date? – siding, new windows and loss of detail
1997 – rear addition replacing old

Condition: fair (due to siding)

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 3,657 SF

Setting: mixed residential neighborhood one block from heavily traveled artery

Photograph



Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): November 2015

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

35 AGASSIZ AVENUE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AH

BLM.729

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Screened by large pine trees, the house at 35 Agassiz Avenue is an unusual 1 ½-story dwelling which dates to the 1890s. It is sheathed in vinyl siding, rests on a fieldstone foundation and is capped by a gambrel roof. The sidehall entrance is recessed from the east façade and set behind a three-part arch supported by two attenuated columns. To the west of the entrance, the first floor has a three-sided bay window. Windows contain 1/1 replacement sash. A single-story historic wing extends behind the main house block.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

In 1891 the former Thayer Estate off Trapelo Road was divided into house lots by Henry F. Campbell, a Watertown inventor and builder. Campbell had purchased the 25 acre estate with its winding drives and beautifully landscaped grounds in 1882. The present street name commemorates the visit of noted Swiss naturalist, Jean Louis Agassiz (1807-1873) to Waverley Oaks.

This property comprises lots 50 & 51 on the 1891 subdivision plan. The houses at 35 and 39 Agassiz Avenue were reportedly built as a pair in 1893 (Williams 1982). The house was built prior to the 1898 map.

The earliest known occupant of 35 Agassiz Avenue was George Allen, a storekeeper at McLean Hospital who was living here in 1907-9. According to the Census, Eugene Hanifan, a hospital supervisor, was renting the house in 1910. William Hubbard was living here in 1912. At the time the property was owned by George and Doriman Bush. George Bush was a salesman. The property was purchased by John M. Hartnett in 1915 (Book 3980, Page 419). John Hartnett worked as a machinist in a meat packing plant. He lived here with his wife Augusta, two daughters and a son, Benjamin. The family was still living here in 1940. The property was later inherited by Benjamin Hartnett and sold by his estate in 1998 to Daniel Lombard (Book 27589, Page 127).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Belmont: The Architecture and Development of the Town of Homes. Prepared for the Belmont Historic District Commission, 1984.

Betts, Richard B. *The Streets of Belmont and How they Were Named (2nd edition).* Belmont: Belmont Historical Society, 2012.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA

Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1905, 1910, 1915, 1922, 1931, 1949.

Stadley, George W. *Atlas of the Towns of Watertown, Belmont, Arlington, and Lexington.* 1898.

U.S. Census, various dates.

Williams, Judy. Area form for H. F. Campbell Subdivision (BLM.AH), 1982.