

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

27-61	Boston North	AG	BLM.270
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Town/City: Belmont

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Waverley Square

Address: 4 Cambridge Street

Historic Name:

Uses: Present: two family dwelling
Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1876 (by 1889)

Source: deeds, Walker Atlas

Style/Form: French Second Empire

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
garage (1922)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

date? – rear addition
1954- converted to two family
1985/2012 – greenhouse addition to south
2014- new windows

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

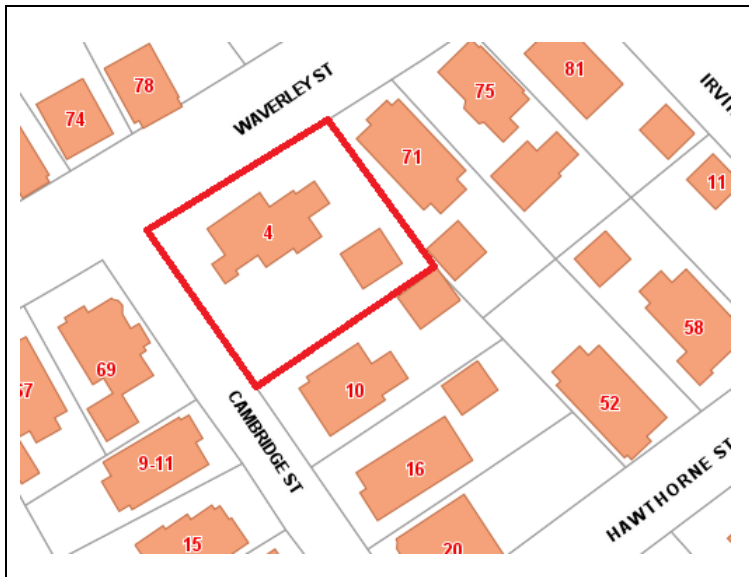
Acreage: 9,845 SF

Setting: older neighborhood in Waverley Square, corner of Waverley Street

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

4 CAMBRIDGE STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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.

Located at the corner of Waverley Street and Cambridge Street, 4 Cambridge Street is a well-preserved example of a French Second Empire style cottage. The single-story clapboarded dwelling is capped by a mansard roof with straight sides and gable dormers. The roof is now covered in asphalt shingles replacing the original slate shingles. A two-story off-center tower with a steeply pitched hip roof topped by iron cresting marks the sidehall entrance. The front door is framed by side and transom lights and protected by a single-bay porch supported by chamfered posts and decorated by scroll brackets, arched spans and a bold balustrade. Other character-defining features include paired brackets at the cornice, a bracketed side bay window, entablature lintels with end brackets above the first floor windows, and a pair of narrow arched windows on the second floor of the tower. Previous windows of a 1/1 configuration were replaced in 2014 by more historically appropriate 2/2 sash. The only major alterations to the building are a 2012 greenhouse addition on the south elevation (replaced earlier version with same footprint) and a single-story addition to the rear.

A hedge is located along both the Cambridge Street and Waverley Street frontages. A paved driveway extends from Waverley Street, terminating at a hip-roofed garage (1922) which is clapboarded with vertical beadboard double doors.

The house at 4 Cambridge Street is one of several similar French Second Empire cottages in Waverley – see also 22 Waverley Street (BLM.89) and 40 Waverley Street (BLM.90), suggesting the possibility of a single builder or the use of a pattern book. The house at 4 Cambridge Street is notable for its high level of integrity including the fact that it retains its tower.

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.

This lot was part of a larger parcel of land sold by the Waverley Land Company to D. Gilbert Dexter in 1873. Gilbert lived in Cambridge, was active in real estate and was the founder/editor of the *Cambridge Tribune* newspaper. What is now 4 Cambridge Street was lot 62 & 63 of Dexter's 1875 subdivision (Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 29, Plan 45). Waverley Street was laid out between Waverley and Belmont Centers in 1873. Cambridge Street was petitioned for, laid out, and accepted in 1876. This house was probably built soon thereafter.

A house is shown on this location at the time of the 1889 Walker map but the name of the owner is not given. The 1898 Belmont Atlas identifies this as the property of D. Lynch. No further information was found concerning Lynch.

By 1907 this was the home of Joseph E. Melanson, a confectioner, who was born in Quebec. In 1920 he was living here with his son, Parker Melanson, and his sister Mary. Joseph Melanson was still living here as late as 1934.

In 1942 the Waverley Cooperative Bank conveyed the property to Salvatore and Lucy Mazzei of Boston (Book 6614, Page 399). Salvatore worked as a drill hand. According to Town Building Department records, the house was converted to a two-family dwelling in 1954. The property was conveyed by Lucy Mazzei to her daughter Theresa Lorden in 1970 and is still owned by her today (Book 11894, Page 570).

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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- 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
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- Stadley, George W. *Atlas of the Towns of Watertown, Belmont, Arlington, and Lexington*. 1898.
- Town of Belmont, Building Department Records.
- U.S. Census, various dates.
- Walker, G.H. *Atlas of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Boston: G.H. Walker, 1889.
- Williams, Judy. Area form for Waverley Square (BLM.AG), 1982.



Garage (1922) facing Waverley Street