

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

9-102	Boston North	CA	BLM.168
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Town/City: Belmont

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Payson Park

Address: 196 Grove Street

Historic Name: Reuben L. Richardson House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1860

Source: maps, history

Style/Form: Altered

Architect/Builder: Earle Allen, bldr. (1940)

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete block

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard, flushboard

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

garage (1949)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1940 – moved, new exterior walls, new roof, new front entrance, bay windows

2011 – new windows

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:** 1940

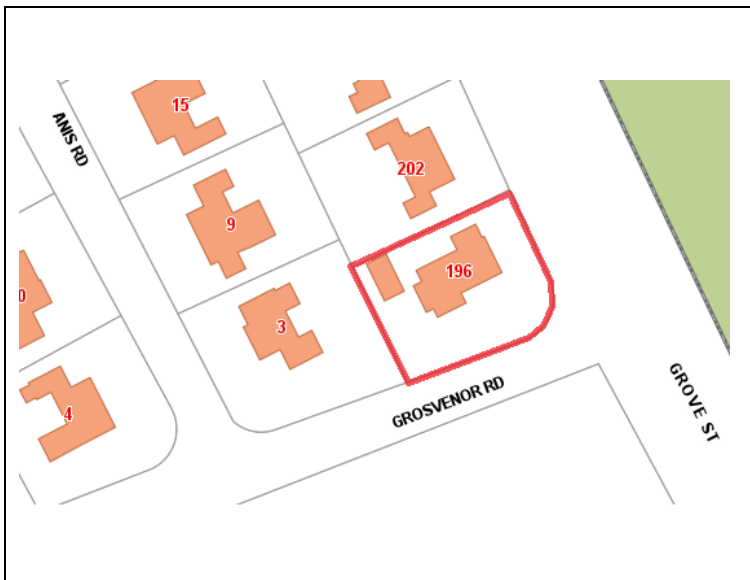
Acreage: 7,152 SF

Setting: heavily vegetated corner lot with fence near Cambridge Town line and facing playground

Photograph



Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): October 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

196 GROVE STREET

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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.

The frame of the house at 196 Grove Street may date to the mid-19th century but there is little else to suggest the building's original form and it retains little integrity. The concrete block foundation is a reminder of the house's relocation to this site in 1940. At that time new exterior walls and a new roof were installed. The house is currently capped by a hip roof. The original roof configuration is not known, it may have been flat or gabled. Similarly, it is not clear if the mix of wood clapboards on the first floor and horizontal flushboards above is an original feature. Sanborn insurance maps indicate that in its previous location, the house was fronted by a single-story porch. The smaller gabled porch with Doric columns and three-sided bay windows were installed after the move. The open porch on the north wall was also added in 1940. New windows were installed in 2011.

Behind the house and accessed from Grosvenor Road is a concrete block, one-car garage built in 1949. The house occupies a corner lot but is heavily screened by vegetation on both sides.

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 building, though altered and moved a short distance from its original location at 168 Grove Street, is related to the locally important Richardson family. The house was built on land that was acquired by the Richardsons after 1853. Henry Richardson (1837-1904) owned land between School and Grove Streets and was a prominent market gardener who grew a variety of vegetables and muskmelons. The 1875, 1889 and 1898 maps all show the house as being owned by R.L (Reuben) Richardson. By 1907 Reuben was deceased and the house at 168 Grove Street was occupied by his widow, Julia Richardson. She continued to live at 168 Grove until about 1918. In the 1920s and early 1930s mechanical engineer Albert Suttill was living in the house with his wife Jennie. At the time the house was owned by George Foster and his wife, the former Eleanor Richardson.

In 1940 the house was moved from 168 Grove Street to its present location at 196 Grove Street in order to expand the Grove Street Playground. The original three acres of the playground were acquired from Julia Richardson in 1923. George L. Foster (1878-1960) purchased the lot of land from the Hittinger Fruit Company. Building department records indicate that after the move the house received new exterior walls, a new roof, a new front entrance, and the addition of an open porch. Earle Allen was the builder in charge of the work. In 1949 a garage was built behind the house.

The house was occupied for many years by George L. Foster and his second wife Emily whom he married in 1937. George Foster was active in town affairs, serving as Cemetery Commissioner from 1936 to 1948 and was a town meeting member. Emily Foster sold the property to Vera, Johanna and Paul DuBois in 1986 (Book 17700, Page 453).

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Assessors' Photo (before fence)