

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

27-84	Boston North	AG	BLM.95
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**Town/City:** Belmont

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

**Address:** 16-18 Hawthorne Street

**Historic Name:** Warner-Kewer House

**Uses:** Present: two family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1880

**Source:** maps

**Style/Form:** Italianate

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
garage

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

1924 – conversion from one family to two family  
late 20<sup>th</sup> c. – vinyl siding, removal of bracketed cornice,  
new windows

**Condition:** fair (due to siding)

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

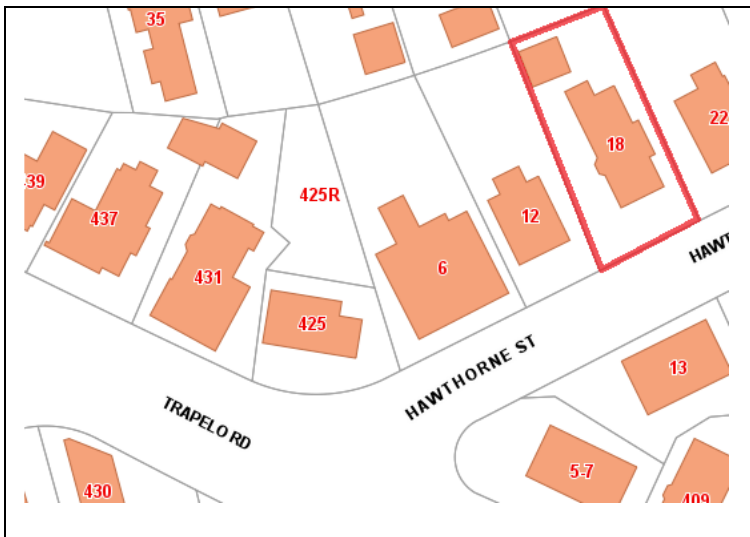
**Acreage:** 7523 SF

**Setting:** Tree-lined older residential street in Waverley Square

## 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

16-18 HAWTHORNE 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.*

The house at 16-18 Hawthorne Street is an example of a vernacular Italianate dwelling of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is set on a brick foundation and is currently sheathed in vinyl siding. The hip-roofed dwelling has overhanging eaves that originally had cornice brackets. A gable wall dormer rises from the front roof slope. Italianate style details which survive include a flat-roofed door hood with decorative brackets and three-sided bay windows. The sash originally contained 2/2 sash but now display 1/1 replacements. There were likely originally decorative lintels and cornerboards. The house was converted to a two family in 1924 and the two front doors reflect that period – with 4 x 2-panes over vertical panels.

To the rear is a two-car garage which has been updated with modern overhead garage doors.

## 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 16-18 Hawthorne Street was lot 37 of Dexter's subdivision (Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 23, Plan 4). Hawthorne Street was petitioned for, laid out, and accepted in 1876. There is a house shown on this site at the time of the 1889 Walker map but the name of the owner is not indicated. By 1896 the house was owned and occupied by Albert Warner. No further information was available concerning Warner.

In 1901 Emily Warner sold the property to Susie Kewer (Book 2887, Page 316). She was the wife of William Kewer who was born in Bath, England in 1866 and came to this country about 1890. He worked as a baker and later as a news dealer with a store at 501 Trapelo Road. In 1910 they were living here with their five children between the ages of 13 and 22. Four of the children were still living here in 1920 – son Leo was a medical doctor, Howard was a salesman, Gordon worked as a carpenter and Pauline was employed as a bookkeeper. The house was converted to a two family in 1924 and in 1930 William, now a widower, was living in #18 with his daughter Pauline and her husband and child. The other unit was rented out. William Kewer died in 1934 but the property remained in the family until 1970 when it was sold by Eva Kewer. John and Geraldine Healy purchased it in 1970. The family still owns the house today.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Assessors' photo