

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

15-203	Boston North	AF	BLM.259
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Town/City: Belmont

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Waverley

Address: 139-141 Lexington Street

Historic Name: E. F. Cutter House

Uses: Present: two family dwelling

Original: two family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1870

Source: maps

Style/Form: French Second Empire

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding

Roof: slate, asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

garage (1930)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

date? - siding

ca. 2010 – new windows

Condition: fair (due to siding)

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 11,757 SF

Setting: mixed residential on heavily traveled road

Photograph



Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

139-141 LEXINGTON 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 building at 139-141 Lexington Street is a two-story building in the French Second Empire style which has served as both a two and single family dwelling since its construction ca. 1870. The house is set on a brick foundation and is currently clad in vinyl siding. The symmetrical but entryless façade has two central windows flanked by a three-sided bay on either side. The mansard roof has straight sides with polygonal projections above the two first floor bays. The roof retains polychromatic fishscale slate shingles and gabled dormers decorated by trusses and stickwork. The central dormer has an ornamental iron balcony. The top hip roof is now covered asphalt shingles and a tall brick chimney rises from the center of the roof. The elongated window openings contain vinyl sash in a 1/1 with transom configuration replacing what were 2/2 sash. There is a simple single-bay porch on the north end of the building and a larger enclosed porch on the south end.

A driveway to the south of the house terminates at a wood frame two-car garage capped by a hip roof, constructed in 1930. A large modern fence along the front sidewalk is a recent addition.

The house at 139-141 Lexington Street is one of a number of French Second Empire dwellings constructed in Waverley in the late 19th century. Houses in the style but with towers include 4 Cambridge Street, 22 Waverley Street, and 40 Waverley Street.

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 house is shown on the 1875 Beers map as being owned by E.F. Cutter. By 1875 the surrounding land had already been divided into lots though few other houses were standing. This property was Lot 3. The 1889 map shows the property as a double house owned or occupied by someone named Kinsley. It seems likely that Cutter was renting out the house. It appears to have been converted to a single-family dwelling.

In 1898, after Edmund F. Cutter's death, the property was sold by the Cutter Trustees to Hollis Bowman Page of Belmont for \$451.20 (Book 2638, Page 481). Hollis Bowman Page (1859-1901) was an artist and had been married to Cutter's daughter, Nina who had died in 1889. After Hollis Page's death the house was inherited by his widow Georgia Page who moved to New York with her daughters. The house at 141 Lexington Street was rented out from at least 1907 to 1915 to Wesley Hall, a Boston furs merchant. The property was owned by Charles Reynolds from 1921 to 1946. He worked as a civil engineer for the railroad and in 1940 was living here with his wife Mildred, son, mother-in-law, aunt and a lodger who worked as a schoolteacher. Girard and Selma Curtis owned the property from 1947 to 1953 and during this period the house was sided with asbestos shingles.

James and Marjorie Galgay purchased the property in 1953 and the family continued to own it until 2009 when it was sold to the present owners. In 1960 the Galgays returned the property to two-family use by making a two-room apartment on the first floor. James Galgay (1922-2008) was a World War II veteran and worked for NYNEX for 44 years.

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

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