

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

|      |              |    |         |
|------|--------------|----|---------|
| 28-6 | Boston North | AF | BLM.255 |
|------|--------------|----|---------|

**Town/City:** Belmont

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

**Address:** 181 Lexington Street

**Historic Name:** Fred & Melissa Corey House

**Uses:** Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** 1913

**Source:** deeds

**Style/Form:** Queen Anne

**Architect/Builder:** Melanson Bros., bldrs.

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood shingles

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
none

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

**Condition:** good

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

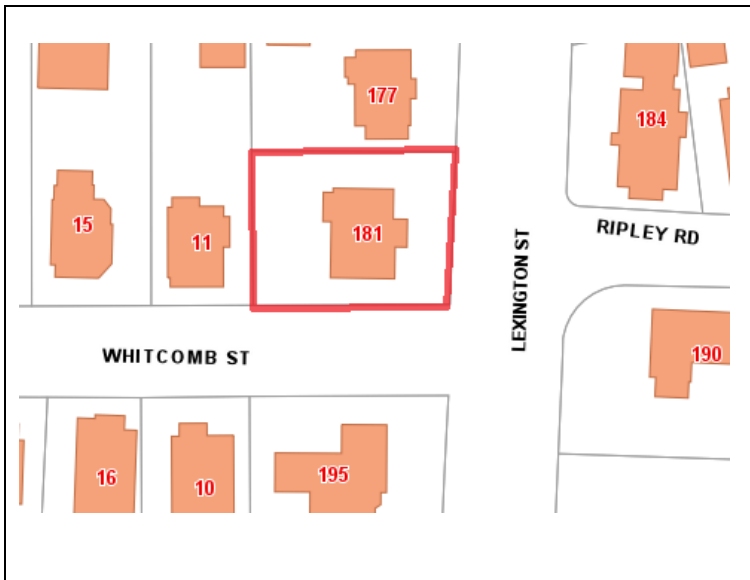
**Acreage:** 7,616 SF

**Setting:** corner lot on busy street near Waverley Center

## 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

181 LEXINGTON STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AF

BLM.255

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 northwest corner of Lexington and Whitcomb Streets, 181 Lexington Street is a well-preserved early 20<sup>th</sup> century dwelling that owes its detailing, if not its massing, to the Queen Anne style. The 2 ½-story, 3 x 2-bay, side-gabled building is rectangular in plan and lacks the irregular profile of earlier Queen Anne style structures. It is clad in wood shingles above a mortared fieldstone foundation. The overhanging eaves in cornice returns and the lateral eaves are bracketed. A broad gable dormer rises from the front roof slope and there are two corbel cap chimneys. Centered on the façade is a wide single bay porch supported by Doric columns with a stick balustrade and bracketed cornice. Underneath the porch the center entrance is flanked by sidelights. On either side of the porch there is a rectangular oriel window resting on brackets with a three-sided oriel centered above the entrance. Most of the windows have multiple glass panes in the upper sash with a single light lower sash.

Landscaping on the level lot consists primarily of a hedge running along both street frontages.

## 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 land was part of a larger parcel purchased by the Whitcomb family in 1888 and which included the mansion house that stands at the corner of Belmont Street and Knowles Road (917 Belmont Street) across the town line in Watertown. The 1898 Stadley map shows that the land had been subdivided into lots but there was still no house on this site. The present house was built shortly after the 1912 Sanborn map. Building Department records indicate that Mrs. Melissa Corey, wife of Fred, was granted a building permit for the construction of a two-story house. The house was to be built according to "private plans" suggesting that either the family designed it themselves or used a published set of plans. Melanson Brothers were the contractors. The brothers (Delby C. and Theodore J.) built numerous houses throughout Belmont over a long career.

The 1920 Census indicates that both Fred A. and Melissa Corey were born in Canada and came to this country about 1895. He worked as a salesman for a biscuit company. In 1920 the couple was living here with their 19-year old daughter Dorothy and 11-year old son Roger. Melissa, then a widow, was still living here in 1944 with Roger who worked as a broker. In 1963 the house left the Corey family when it was sold by Mary Corey to Joseph and Carolyn Fiore (Book 10311, page 185). It was owned by Robert and Marilyn Brown from 1973 to 1977. Brooke Holmes purchased the house in 1977 and sold it in 2013 to the present owners, Ogden and Erin Sawyer.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Ancestry.com.

Belmont Directories, various dates.

*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 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition).* Belmont: Belmont Historical Society, 2012.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA

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

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

Town of Belmont, Building Department files.

U.S. Census, various dates.