

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

17-40	Boston North	AQ	BLM.107
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**Town/City:** Belmont

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 223-225 Slade Street

**Historic Name:** Collins Graham Double House

**Uses:** Present: single family dwelling

Original: two family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** 1923

**Source:** building permit

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Bates & Wigglesworth

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: flushboard, wood clapboards

Roof: tar and gravel

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
none

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

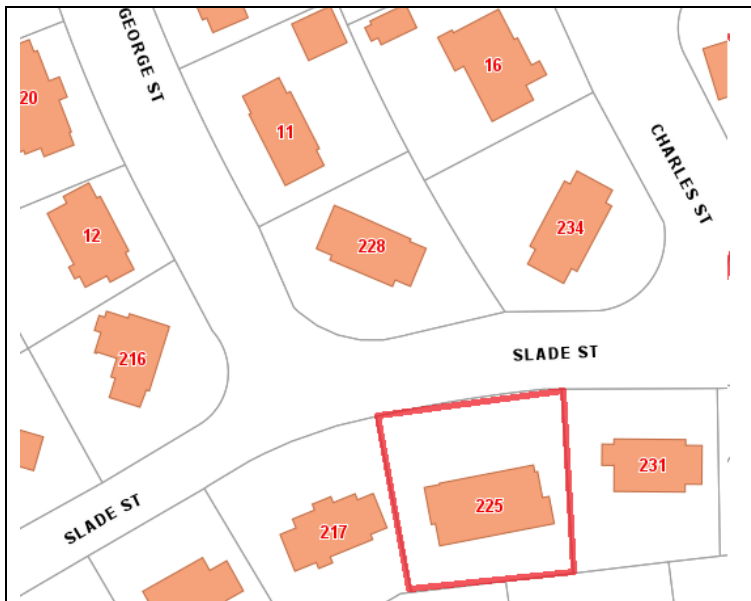
**Condition:** good

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

**Acreage:** 9,917 SF

**Setting:** mixed twentieth century neighborhood of houses

## Locus Map (north at top)



**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Belmont Historic District Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): November 2014

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

223-225 SLADE STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.*

223 Slade (originally 223-225 Slade Street) is an unusual early 20<sup>th</sup> century Colonial Revival duplex featuring side-by-side, two-story units which are mirror images of each other down to the original single car, fireproof (concrete) garage attached on either end. The flat-roofed structure presents a six-bay, flushboard façade to the street fronted by a full portico with two-story posts. The identical center entrances contain six-panel doors flanked by full-length sidelights and pilasters which support a shared entablature topped by an iron balconette with curvilinear scrollwork. Above the entablature there is a low solid wall parapet with a low gable at the center. A painted brick chimney rises from each end of the roof. The side elevations and the narrow offset wings (just a single bay wide) are sheathed in wood clapboards. Windows contain 6/6 sash and are flanked by shutters on the façade.

The house is set on a low knoll above the street level with a small front lawn and symmetrical plantings and driveways. A set of low concrete and brick steps lead from the street to a flagstone walk and the wide front stairs and front porch.

## 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 was part of a larger parcel owned by Winthrop Chenery in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1919 the twenty-acre property was purchased by the Common Street Associates who subdivided the former estate into residential lots. This was Lot 45 on that plan.

In March 1923 Collins Graham of Watertown was granted a building permit for the construction of this house. The architects were Bates and Wigglesworth. The year before the architects had constructed a house with reinforced concrete walls and floors nearby at 256 Slade Street. According to building permits, the house at 223 Slade was instead of conventional wood construction above the concrete foundation.

Collins Graham (1889-1980) was born in Montreal and came to this country in 1890. He graduated from Harvard College in 1912 and worked as an insurance broker in Boston. In 1930 Collins was living at #223 with his wife Hannah and daughter Joae. The other unit (#225) was rented to Malcolm Bowen, a salesman, for \$100/month. Butler lived here with his wife Jean, son, and a servant. In 1943 the house was converted to a single family dwelling. Collins Graham was still living here into the 1960s. Later owners included Lois Allard and Robert Porthouse in the early 1990s. At some point it was again serving as a two-family but reverted to single-family use in the late 1990s.

Architect Victor Hugo Wigglesworth (1885-1958) was born in Hyde Park in 1885. Nothing is known about his educational background other than the 1940 Census indicating that the highest level of schooling he received was the first year of high school. In 1910 he was living with his mother in Chelsea and the local directory lists him as an architect. He and his brother Charles appear to have briefly formed a partnership and are credited with the design of several Colonial Revival buildings in Chelsea including buildings on Bellingham Square and the Chelsea Day Nursery.

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Wigglesworth married Mary Winthrop Shackford on May 25, 1916 and designed the houses on Colonial Terrace in Belmont that same year. He and his wife lived at #4 Colonial Terrace for several years. In addition to Colonial Terrace, Wigglesworth also designed other dwellings in Belmont including 24 Cedar Road (1913), a Prairie Style dwelling, 20 Highland Road (1915), a house for his own use at 214 Common Street (1922, no longer extant), another across the street (217 Common Street, no longer extant), several other houses on Slade Street including 234 and 256 Slade Street, and another house for himself at 21 Knox Road (no longer extant). Many of the buildings he designed were of concrete, fireproof construction. Examples of his work were published in a number of early 20<sup>th</sup> century journals including *Carpentry and Building*, *The Builder's Journal* and *Concrete*. In 1929 Wigglesworth was awarded a patent for a tie for binding spaced walls together. The Common and Slade Street houses are credited to Bates & Wigglesworth, Architects and Engineers. His partner, Stacy C. Bates graduated from MIT in 1911. It appears that Wigglesworth did not always primarily work as an architect. Draft records indicate that in 1917 he was chief draftsman for the John H. Hammond Jr. Cruft Laboratory in Cambridge and at the time of World War II he was an engineer for Fay Spofford and Thorndike in Boston. Wigglesworth was still living in Belmont in 1955 but died in Newburgh, New York in 1958.

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