

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

33-58	Boston North	AH CL	BLM.627
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Town/City: Belmont

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Waverley

Address: 596 Trapelo Road

Historic Name: Flett-Marsh House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1890

Source: deeds

Style/Form: Queen Anne

Architect/Builder: Henry Campbell (likely)

Exterior Material:

Foundation: fieldstone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards, wood shingles

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 4,740 SF

Setting: row of late 19th century dwellings on heavily traveled road

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): May 2015

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

596 TRAPELO ROAD

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.

596 Trapelo Road stands out as one of the best preserved of the row of Queen Anne homes built on the south side of Trapelo Road east of Agassiz Street in the 1890s. The 2 ½-story gablefront has a clapboarded exterior with decorative accents including a band of staggered butt shingles adjacent to the attic window and diagonal clapboards above. A single-story porch spans the façade and is supported by turned posts with a stick balustrade. Underneath the porch, the sidehall entry retains an original glass and panel front door. Projecting from the west side of the façade is a three-sided bay window which extends both below and above the front porch. Windows contain 1/1 replacement sash.

The house is set on a narrow urban lot containing less than 5,000 square feet. The lot slopes down to the south and behind the main house block is a smaller, original two-story wing which is a single bay wide and set on a fieldstone foundation. The lower level is clad in wood shingles while the floor above is clapboarded with a steeply pitched gable roof with overhanging eaves and a tall brick chimney with corbel cap. To the west of the wing is a modern deck.

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 constructed as part of a subdivision laid out on Trapelo Road (originally North Street) by Watertown inventor Henry F. Campbell after purchasing the 25 acre Phelps-Thayer Estate in 1882. The land was laid out into nineteen lots and fourteen of the houses were built between 1890 and 1893. Several of the houses were built by Campbell himself.

This property comprises lots 13 and 14 on the subdivision plan dated January 1890 (Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 62, Plan 45). The original owner may well have been George C. Flett who was living here in the 1890s. Flett was born in New Brunswick, Canada in 1859 and came to this country in 1874. Flett was a printer by trade and worked as superintendent of the Rand Avery Supply Company in Boston. He served as chairman of the Belmont Board of Selectmen for 18 years, was chairman of the school committee and the Democratic town committee as well as a director of the Waverley Cooperative Bank and the Waverley Trust Company. He was also prominent in fraternal orders and served as grand master of the Belmont Lodge, A.F. and A.M., grand master of the Masonic district, and a member of the Trapelo lodge of Odd Fellows and Waverley Council of the Royal Arcanum. At the time of his death in 1920, George Flett left a widow, Margaretta (Watson), three daughters and a son, J. Watson Flett.

Beginning in 1924 the house was owned by William Marsh. Henry Marsh, an electrician, was living here in 1925 along with his wife Lena and sons William, an auto mechanic, and Edwin. In the early 1930s the house was briefly occupied by Edwin Marsh's family. He worked at a gas station. In 1940 William and Sadie Marsh were living here with their four children ranging in age between 3 and 9. William was then working as a machinist. The house was owned by daughter Dorothy Marsh Freeman and her husband Irving from 1985 to 1994. The Freemans sold the property to Alison Tsoi, Victoria Kam and Eric Yee in 1994 and Kam and Yee still own it today.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Ancestry.com (Directories and U.S. Census)

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

Cambridge Chronicle, July 31, 1920 [obituary of George C. Flett]

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA

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

Town of Belmont, Building Department files

Williams, Judy. Area form for H.F. Campbell Subdivision (Area AH), 1982.

Williams, Judy. Area form for Trapelo Road Streetscape (Area CL), 1982.