

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

29-90	Boston North	AN	BLM.445
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Town/City: Belmont

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Waverley

Photograph



Address: 112 Waverley Street

Historic Name: Henry S. Harris House

Uses: Present: two family dwelling
Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1880

Source: maps

Style/Form: Queen Anne

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone
Wall/Trim: vinyl siding
Roof: slate, asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

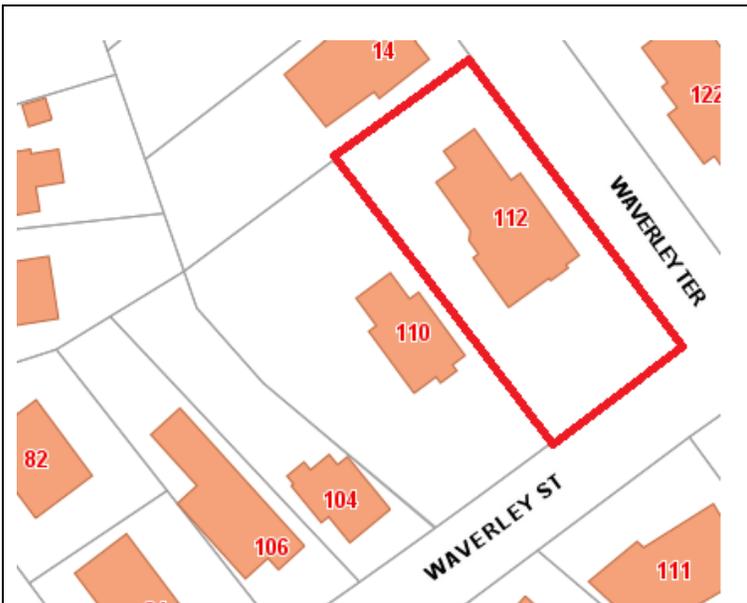
1950 – convert to two family
1974 – vinyl siding
1997 – all new windows
2000 – new front porch decking and balusters
Condition: fair (due to siding)

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 10,800 SF

Setting: Residential connector street between Belmont Center and Waverley

Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): November 2015

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

112 WAVERLEY 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.

The house at 112 Waverley Street appears to be a fairly simple example of the Queen Anne style but it is likely that the exterior once displayed additional ornament and texture which has been hidden or removed when the vinyl siding was installed in 1974. A series of gables, bays, porches and chimneys add interest to the basic 2 ½-story gablefront form. All of the gables, including the main front gables and east gable display pent ends that may have once featured contrasting textures or decoration. A single-story porch with unusual turned posts decorated by bullseyes under a covered frieze fronts the façade and extends around to the adjacent elevations, terminating at a three-story projecting gabled bay on the east side and a two-story, three-sided bay with conical roof on the west. Marking the front entrance, a low pediment with raised relief decoration, rises from the porch roof. All of the original windows have been removed and replaced with modern double-hung 1/1 sash.

The house is setback from the road on a lot measuring approximately 10,000 square feet, a great reduction from the original 12-acre parcel. A low deteriorated concrete wall runs along the sidewalk and the front yard consists of level lawn.

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.

Waverley Street was laid out between Waverley and Belmont Centers in 1873. The house at 112 Waverley appears to date to the 1880s and was constructed for Henry S. Harris (1847-1902) who was born in Germany (Prussia). He came to this country in 1860, served in the Civil War and married his wife Matilda in Boston in 1867. By 1880 he was living in Belmont and is first listed as a tax payer in local records in 1883. The 1889 map shows a house and stable owned by Harris on this site. Henry S. Harris worked as a harness dealer and horse trader in Boston and also sold and rented horses to the town of Belmont for highway work, snow plowing, etc. He acquired a large amount of land in this part of Waverley, becoming one of Belmont's largest land owners. By the time of the 1898 map Harris had built a second house on his 12-acre property – a more elaborate Queen Anne style house at what was 122 Waverley Street (no longer extant). Waverley Terrace was later laid out between the two houses about 1916 and houses were later built on the site of the stables behind 112 Waverley.

At the time of the 1900 Census Henry and Matilda Harris were living with six children, a grandson and a servant. After Henry's death in 1902, Matilda appears to have left Belmont. In 1902 the Town of Belmont purchased 6.6 acres of his estate for the present-day Town Field. A son, Benjamin A. Harris, a veterinary surgeon who studied at Harvard, lived at 122 Waverley Street for a few years until about 1909. The house at 112 Waverley appears to have been acquired by F. Alexander Chandler and the house was rented to a number of tenants including Patrick McDonnell, a Boston liquor merchant (1907, 1909), J. Frank Hazelton (1912) and Dennis Connelly, a clerk (1918). In 1921 the newly formed Waverley Club undertook an option to buy the house and architect Thaxter Underwood prepared tentative plans for renovations. It does not appear that this was ever undertaken. In 1925 the house was occupied by the Knights of Columbus but in 1929 it was vacant.

By the time of the 1930 the house had been bought by Martin Pettegrino, an Italian-born barber who immigrated to this country in 1903. He lived here with his wife Josephine, their three daughters and their daughters' families. These included Angelina and Dominick Restuccia, Margaret and Peter Felgamo and Constance and Tenario Gregorio. In 1935 the property was purchased by Dominick Restuccia (1897-1979) who worked as a chef. The Restuccia family owned the property for more than 50 years. It was later owned by Philip Restuccia and was finally sold by the heirs of William Restuccia in 1997 to Maria Nitzsche and Lot and Sheri Bates (Book 27105, Page 339). Lot and Sheri Bates have owned the building since 2000.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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1889 map

