

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

61 WAVERLEY STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AG

BLM.92

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.

Constructed in the early 1870s, the house at 61 Waverley Street is a representative example of a French Second Empire/Italianate style dwelling. The two-story, clapboarded house is capped by an asphalt-shingled (formerly fishscale slate) mansard roof and presents a three-bay façade to the street with a characteristic sidehall entry sheltered by a hip-roofed door hood supported by large decorative brackets. The overhanging eaves are accented by a cornice of paired brackets. The windows which originally contained wooden 2/2 sash are now filled with 9/9 vinyl replacement sash. The first floor façade windows are capped by entablature lintels with a small bracket supporting each end of each lintel. On the second floor, the windows are slightly smaller and the entablatures lack the brackets. On both floors the simple sills were also originally fitted with small end consoles. The gable dormers now contain rectangular 6/6 windows in place of the original rounded 2/2 sash. On the adjacent elevations the entablature lintels have been removed and one of the original window openings now contains a patio door. The shed projection on the east elevation of the main house is a recent (2005) addition.

The original wing was removed in 2004-5 and replaced by the present, larger two-story, gable-roofed addition which is five bays wide on the east side with a projecting back porch. There are paved driveways on both the east and west sides of the house and a small patch of lawn in front of the house.

The house at 61 Waverley was built at about the same time as 64 Waverley Street across the street and the two were probably originally quite similar in appearance (both are visible on the 1875 map). The house at 61 Waverley is the least altered of the two as the massing of the house at #64 has been compromised by a façade addition to the east of the original house.

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 lot was part of a larger parcel of land sold by the Waverley Land Company to D. Gilbert Dexter in 1873. Gilbert lived in Cambridge, was active in real estate and was the founder/editor of the *Cambridge Tribune* newspaper. What is now 61 Waverley was lot 22 and the western part of lot 21 of Dexter's subdivision (Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 23, Plan 4). Waverley Street was laid out between Waverley and Belmont Centers in 1873. This was one of the first five houses constructed on Waverley Street as part of the subdivision. It is shown on the 1875 Beers map of Waverly and labeled L.S. Metcalf.

The 1889 Walker map indicates that the house was then owned by someone named Sawyer. Sawyer is also shown as the owner on the 1898 map. No additional information was found concerning this individual. By 1907 the house was owned and occupied by John F. Miller. According to the 1910 Census Miller was born in Nova Scotia in 1866 and lived here with his wife Grace, son, and two lodgers who were salesmen. Miller worked as a drug salesman in Boston. He died in 1928 at the age of 62. Soon after Miller's death, the property was sold to Alexander and Annie Hutchins. The property was sold by Mrs. Hutchins's estate in 1955 (Book 8656, Page 394). The property has had several owners since that time including Kenneth and Pepita Kauffman (1958-1966); Leo and Mary Lou Hanoian (1967-1981). George and Mary Christakis purchased the property in 1981 (Book 14270, Page 372). It is still owned by George Christakis today.

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