

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA F2	FORM NO. 28-10
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108



Belmont

Address 44 - 48 Church Street

Historic Name _____

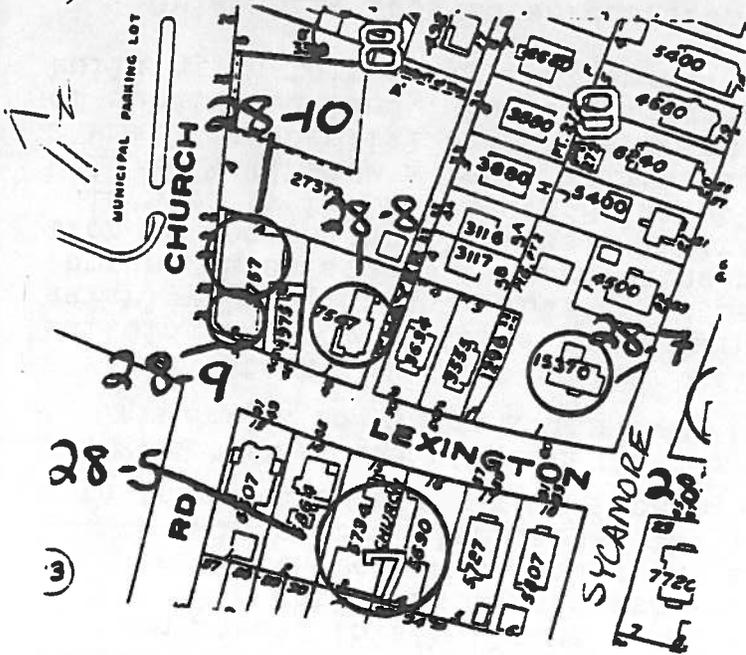
Present commercial, residential

Original hall, commercial

DESCRIPTION:

c. 1851 - 1853

SKETCH MAP



Source Style and Belmont Historical Society records

Style Greek Revival

Architect -

Exterior wall fabric clapboards

Outbuildings -

Major alterations (with dates) _____

storefront, 20th century

Moved yes Date ?

Approx. acreage less than 1 acre

Setting Commercial center of

Waverley

Recorded by Judy Williams

Organization Boston University

Date November, 1982

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

A Greek Revival building of c. 1851-53, this structure is an important remnant of Waverley's development as a railroad center and residential "suburb" of the mid-19th century. Although it has apparently been moved, this building retains much of its original character. Placed with gable end to the street, the structure features corner pilasters with recessed panels and a wide boxed cornice with returns. Sheathed in narrow clapboards, the building is two and one-half stories with three bays on its main facade, including two projecting bay windows.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

One of the earliest extant buildings in Waverley, this commercial building is thought to be the original Waverley Hall, built by the Waverley Land Company (WLC) c. 1851-53. The WLC was a land development company which sought to market the newly accessible land at this location to Boston suburbanites. Railroad transportation was extended to this area by the Fitchburg Railroad Company, connecting Wellington Hill to Waltham. A depot at this location spurred the development of a small residential community which the WLC hoped to enlarge by sales of subdivided land. The first Waverley Hall was an important community building in this early settlement.

Originally located across from its current site, the structure was built to provide a meeting place and general store for the emerging population. The first floor was probably used commercially and the second floor served as a hall. The building may have also been used as the railroad depot for the Waverley stop. The hall was used as a location for public meetings and as the home of the First Congregational Church of Waverley, organized in 1861.

The building may have been relocated prior to 1875, when another depot appears on Atlas maps and a building appears at this location. It apparently ceased being used as the Waverley Hall by the early 1880s.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

- C.J. Frost Map of 1853
- Plan of Land of Waverley Comp y in Watertown, 1854
- Beers' Atlas of 1875
- Belmont Public Library, Waverley file
- Betts, Richard B. The Streets of Belmont and How They Were Named, 1974
- Belmont Historical Society Newsletters, March, 1973; June, 1975

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Boston, Massachusetts

Community: Belmont
Form No: 28-10
Property Name: 44-48 Church
Street

Architectural Significance:

Windows are six over six with raised hood molds. The two bay windows have simple projecting cornices. The ground level of the building is obscured by storefront alterations of the 20th century. Entry to the stores is by two doors on either side of a central entrance, which leads to the upper apartments.

Side facades contain four bays with four gabled dormers above. Windows are six over six and have drip hood molds on the second story and are eight over eight and have shed-roof hoods on the first story.

Historical Significance:

when a second Waverley Hall was constructed at the junction of Church Street and Trapelo Road further to the northeast. This second building served as the community's focal point until its demolition in 1922.

The Church Street building today houses stores on the ground floor and apartments in the old hall above. It may have also been used as housing by immigrant workers who came to Belmont in the late 19th century to build the buildings at nearby McLean Hospital.