

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA c ²	FORM NO. 24-12
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108



Belmont

Address 70 Common Street

Historic Name ---

Present residence

Original barn

DESCRIPTION:
pre 1853

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.

See attached

Source Frost Map

Style Italianate

Architect NA

Exterior wall fabric brick & stucco

Outbuildings NA

Major alterations (with dates) c/1980 Interior conversion to house

Moved NA Date _____

Approx. acreage under 2 acres

Setting In a spacious estate behind the main house.

Recorded by Nora Lucas

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.)

70 Common Street (BEL-82-14-15A) is architecturally significant as a rare surviving high style Italianate barn, meeting Criterion C. of the National Register.

It was originally the barn for the Lyman Underwood House at 50 Common Street (Borm _____). 70 Common Street is also of the Italianate Style and its design echoes that of the larger house. The square brick building has a hipped-roof with deep bracketed eaves, and a matching, square, flat cupola

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

70 Common Street, built as a barn for 50 Common Street is significant for its association with the Underwood family and as a surviving example of one of many 19th-century estates built as Belmont developed as a quite rural retreat from the city, meeting Criterion A of the National Register.

The house and barn are most closely associated with Lyman Underwood, a talented scientist and naturalist who is remembered for his contributions to the food canning industry, public health, and photography. Lyman Underwood lived in 50 Common Street from his marriage in 1871 to Ida Cushing, until his death in 1929. His descendants still live in the main house and the barn was recently converted to a residence by his great granddaughter, Carolyn Baker.

The house and barn may have been built by Samuel O. Mead, who owned most of the property now referred to as the Underwood Estate, and is known to have built the gatehouse for the property c 1850 (Form 24-11)

The estate was one of the earliest country estates in Belmont which was rapidly developing in the late 19th-century as an important rural retreat. The Italianate barn, now 70 Common Street, illustrates the quality of design typical of many Belmont estates.

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

1853 Frost Map of Belmont

Underwood Folder, Belmont Room, Belmont Memorial Library

70 COMMON STREET, INVENTORY CONTINUATION SHEET

Architectural Significance Continued

of smaller scale. Two conventional rectangular doors on the main facade flank one much larger door topped with an ogee arch. Above the large door is a smaller, more delicatd ogee arched window.

The brick building was originally surfaced in stucco (as is the main house) and evidence of the stucco surface remains at the building's base.

