

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	MEL.276
Historic Name:	Waverley Building
Common Name:	
Address:	215-233 Essex St
City/Town:	Melrose
Village/Neighborhood:	Melrose Center
Local No:	130
Year Constructed:	1866
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Second Empire
Use(s):	Commercial Block; Factory Other; Library; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Other Governmental or Civic
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce; Education; Industry; Politics Government
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Slate Wall: Stucco; Wood



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B - BUILDING

This replaces Form B dated October 20, 1978

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

PI - MEL CENT

AREA

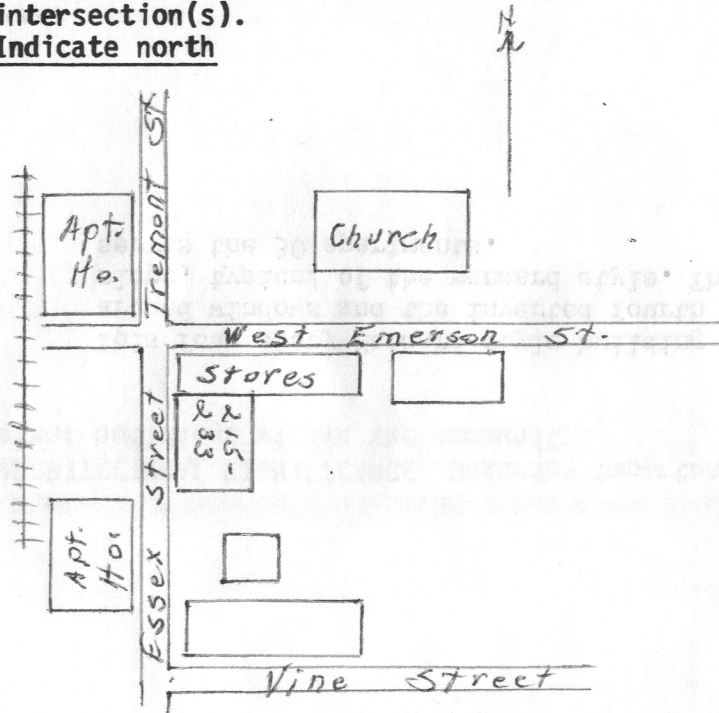
FORM NO.

276



City Melrose
Address 215-233 Essex Street
Historic Name Waverley Building
Present Apartment House
Original Commercial
DESCRIPTION
Date 1866
Source Library records
Style Mansard
Architect _____

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s). Indicate north



Exterior Wall Fabric Stucco
Outbuildings None

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

To apartments in 1928

Condition Fair to Good

Moved _____ Date _____

Acreage 12,190 square feet

Setting Located at the street in a commercial area and across from the Melrose railroad depot.

UTM REFERENCE _____

USGS QUADRANGLE _____

SCALE _____

Recorded by Arnold W. Williams

Organization Melrose Historical Commission

Date July 5, 1988

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE** Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

This four story Mansard style building was erected in 1866. Note the large arched windows and the inverted fourth floor windows in the steep roof slope, typical of the mansard style. The building has one elevator which serves the 30 apartments.

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

This Apartment building was erected after a disastrous fire which destroyed the previous Waverley Block on January 11, 1866. Up until the time it was converted to an apartment house in 1928 this building was used entirely for commercial purposes. For many years the James Cole & Company, a pipe organ manufacturer, occupied the third story. William A. Jefts Co. occupied various areas for ^{furniture} storage and display. J. A. Holbrook carried on a plumbing business here, and A. Brewer ran a furniture repair business in a small area. Various commercial enterprises occupied other areas.

The Melrose Public Library first started here in 1871 and remained until 1874. Other small areas were used for town offices until the Town Hall was completed in 1874.

A hairdresser presently occupies the first floor area on the northwest corner of the building.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

History of Melrose by Goss

Library records

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

A MEL CENT

MEL-276

In Area no.	Form no.
	130



1. Town Melrose

Address 223 Essex Street

Name Waverley Apartments

Present use Apartment House
(30 Apartments)

Present owner Newton Realty Corp.

3. Description:

Date 1866

Source History of Melrose

Style Stucco Mansard

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric Stucco

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features 4 - story

Altered To apartments Date 1928

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 166 feet

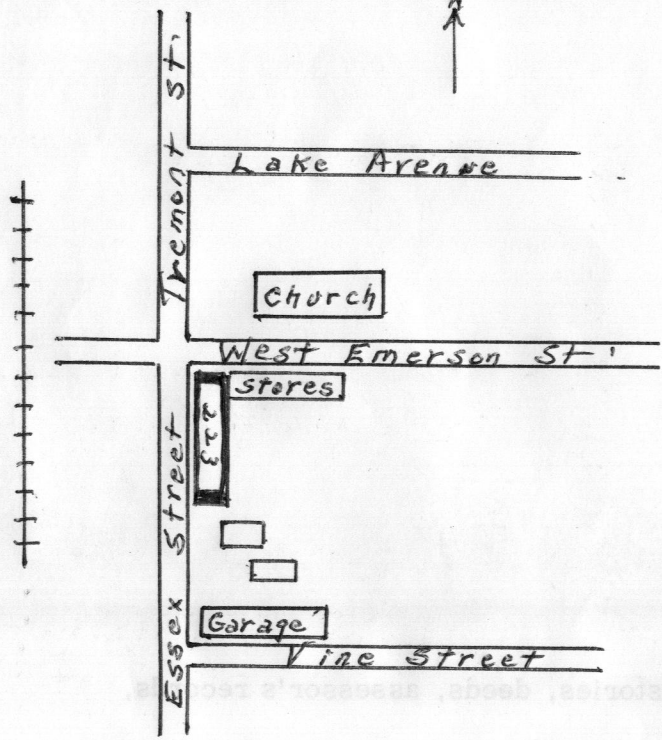
Approximate distance of building from street
At street

6. Recorded by A. W. Williams

Organization Melrose Historical Commission

Date October 20, 1978

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



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(over)

7. Original owner (if known) David and John Webster

Original use Commercial

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Apartment House in 1928

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| Aboriginal | _____ | Conservation | _____ | Recreation | _____ |
| Agricultural | _____ | Education | _____ | Religion | _____ |
| Architectural | _____ | Exploration/
settlement | _____ | Science/
invention | _____ |
| The Arts | _____ | Industry | <u>x</u> | Social/
humanitarian | <u>x</u> |
| Commerce | <u>x</u> | Military | _____ | Transportation | _____ |
| Communication | _____ | Political | <u>x</u> | | |
| Community development | _____ | | | | |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

This was originally a commercial building occupied in part for offices and by various commercial companies for the manufacture of Pipe Organs, distribution of plumbing supplies, etc. Prior to 1874 it was occupied in part by the town for offices, and it was the birthplace of the Melrose Public Library.



10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

History of Melrose by Elbridge H. Goss

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