

FORM B – BUILDING

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

48/78B	Boston North		1618
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: Lexington

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)

Photograph



Address: 1 Vine Brook Road

Historic Name: Taft-Morse House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: c.1910

Source: maps

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation:

Wall/Trim: wood shingles

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

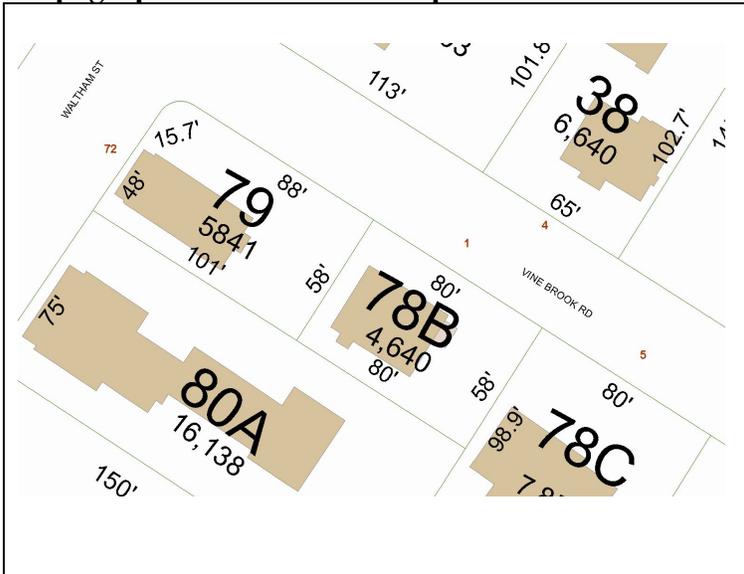
Condition: good

Moved: no | x | yes | | **Date** _____

Acreage: 0.11 acre

Setting: neighborhood of 19th and 20th century houses off Waltham Street near Lexington Center

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Lexington Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): Feb. 2010

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

LEXINGTON

1 VINE BROOK RD.

	1618
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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.

1 Vine Brook Road is a good example of eclectic early 20th century Colonial Revival domestic architecture. The 1 ½-story cottage is sheathed in wood shingles and a series of pedimented dormers punctuate the gambrel roof which displays projecting eaves. Character-defining features include the fanlit front entry, a three-sided bay at the west end of the façade and the decorative window with geometric tracery at the center of the façade. The predominant window form has multiple lights in the upper sash and a single light lower sash.

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.

Neither the house nor Vine Brook Road had been built at the time of the 1906 map which shows the land as being owned by Augustus E. Scott. Nor is there a house on this site at the time of the 1908 Sanborn map.

According to deed records, the property was sold by A.E. Scott to Ezra Taft in 1914 (Book 3910, Page 419). A house was definitely in place by 1917 and is shown on the Sanborn map of 1918. It was sold by Fletcher and Ezra Taft to Beatrice Morse in 1918 (Book 4204, Page 273-4).

Directories indicate that George V. Morse and his wife Beatrice were living here in 1918. He was employed as a lumber salesman in Boston. In 1930 the couple was living here with their four children and his mother. They were still here in 1942.

Later owners included John and Mary Orcutt and Karsten and Nancy Sorensen (1975-2005).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Middlesex County Register of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.
Sanborn Insurance maps
Town Directories
U.S. Census, various years.
1906 map