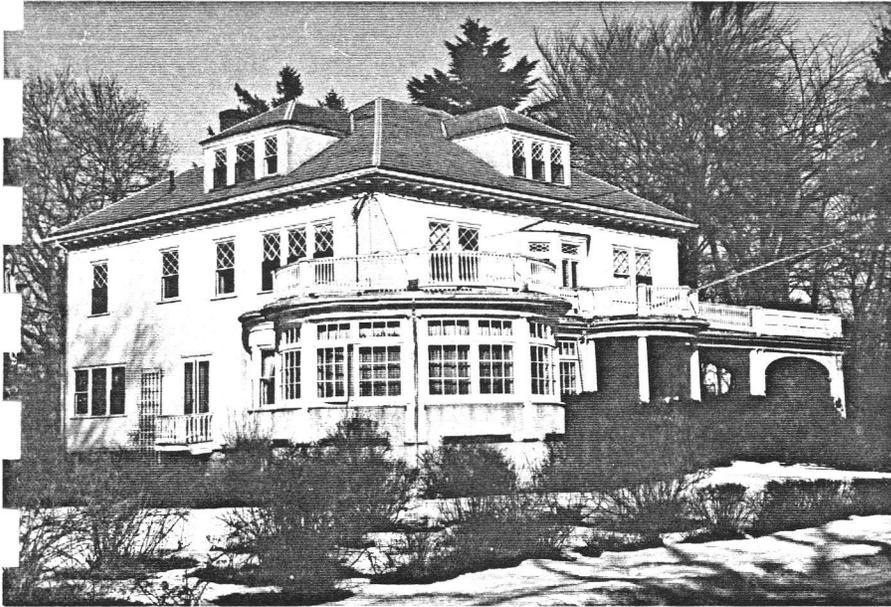


FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
	475

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108



City Lexington

Address 19 Slocum Road

Historic Name Sven Engstrom House

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1910

Source stylistic analysis

Style Colonial Revival with Queen Anne elements

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric stucco

Outbuildings carriage house

Major alterations (with dates) _____

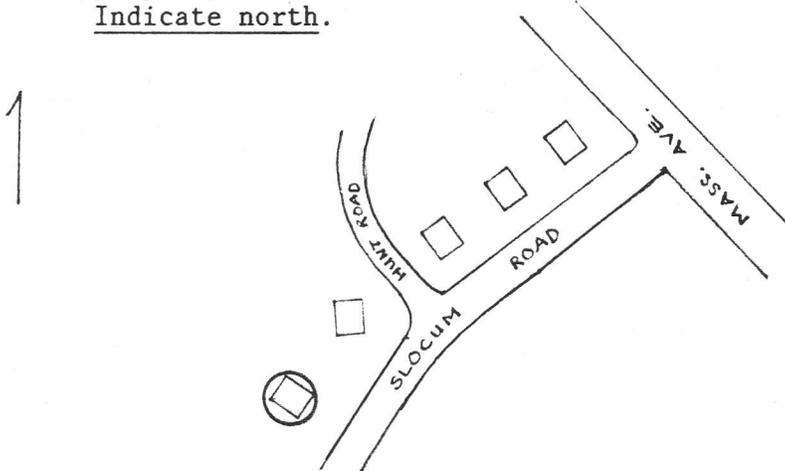
Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 48247 ft.²

Setting Suburban residential street of generally smaller and later houses.

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.



Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date March, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This is a substantial house with a number of special touches. Among these are the circular enclosed porch which projects at the left, perhaps originally an open porch, the semicircular entrance porch, the porte-cochere (all of the above capped by balustrade with turned balusters), and a small cantilevered semicircular balcony on the left side.

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

This house was probably built by Sven O. Engstrom, a manufacturing chemist in Boston, who lived here before 1913. ~~In the late 1920s, this was the residence of Chas. Ponzi, later jailed for illegal stock dealings.~~

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

1889 atlas

1906 atlas

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
LEXINGTON

Property Address
19 SLOCUM ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	475
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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

As previously stated, this house appears to have been built for Sven O. Engstrom who is first listed in the 1913 directory as living at 19 Slocum Road. The 1915 & 1918 directories list the occupant as Richard (English translation of Sven?) Engstrom whose occupation is also listed as a manufacturing chemist. By 1920 Richard Engstrom had moved from 19 Slocum Road to the large brick mansion at 6 Eliot Road (#507).

The next owner of the property was Charles Ponzi (1882-1949) best known as one of the greatest swindlers in history. The term "Ponzi scheme" is a widely known description of any scam that pays early investors returns from the investments of later investors. Ponzi had married Rose Grieco in 1918 and lived luxuriously, buying "a mansion in Lexington with air conditioning and swimming pool". Ponzi's wealth peaked early in 1920 but by November 1920 his schemes had been exposed and he was sentenced to federal prison for five years for mail fraud (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Ponzi).

In April 1923 the property at 19 Slocum Road was sold by the Trustee in the Bankruptcy of Charles Ponzi to John H. Devine (Book 4601, Page 366). John H. Devine was a lawyer who worked in Boston and lived here with his wife Florence. Ownership of the property passed to John Allen Devine in 1980 and was sold by John A. Devine to Robert and Alice Molvar in 1994.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Lexington directories, various dates.
Middlesex County Register of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Ponzi

Supplement prepared by:
Lisa Mausolf
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