

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

I-04-33

Boston
North

Town/City: Medford

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): West Medford

Photograph



Address: 75 Clewley Road

Historic Name: Scantlebury-Ogonyk Two-Family

Uses: Present: two-family residential

Original: two-family residential

Date of Construction: 1926-1928

Source: directories, maps

Style/Form: Craftsman/ two-family

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: rusticated cinderblock

Wall/Trim: wood shingle/ wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: detached garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Possible porch enclosure, 20th century; sash replacement, recent.

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.21 acre

Setting: Unified streetscapes of similar two-family houses lining the surrounding blocks.

Locus Map (*north is up*)



Recorded by: John D. Clemson

Organization: Medford Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): August 2021

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MEDFORD

75 CLEWLEY ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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:

The Scantlebury-Ogonyk Two-Family, built between ca. 1926 and 1928, is a well-preserved example of the two-family type, a building classification that characterizes much of the built environment of the city of Medford and surrounding inner suburbs of Boston. Two-families are two-story apartment houses defined by stacked horizontal flats indicated by matching fenestration patterns on each level. The subject example, with a gable front, is accessed by a single entry in the left (east) side of its two-bay façade. It is also an example of a variation that can be observed throughout parts of Medford and neighboring Arlington characterized by the addition of a cornice-height wing flush with the façade, here on the right side opposite the entry. The building is further expanded by an enclosed, gabled entry porch, a rectangular oriel opposite on the first story, and stacked rear porches. The dimensions of the building, at 25 feet wide by 44 feet deep with a 12-foot-deep wing that extends 8 feet to the side, suggests what Thomas C. Hubka has classified as a Progressive Era plan. Hubka argues that this plan was a major improvement over earlier 19th century designs for worker and middle-class housing that coincided with other improvements in household technology such as fully equipped kitchens and three-fixture baths equipped with plumbing, electricity and other public utilities, multiple private bedrooms and formal dedicated spaces that included living and dining rooms. Such plans are characterized by double ranks of rooms with public living, dining and kitchen on one side and between two and three bedrooms and bath on the other.¹ Interior images currently available on line through “realtor.com” confirm the plan and suggest the wing is filled with what was known at the time of its construction as a “sun parlor” or “radio room.”²

This house appears to retain a predominance of its original finishes and building fabric. The uniform wood shingle covering combined with open soffits supported by exposed rafter ends are suggestive of a Craftsman aesthetic popular at the time of its construction. Although the sash has been replaced original casings and other trim, including molded rake boards and a band course across the façade that encloses the gable, survive. The original front door inside an entry porch with solid shingle parapet and a gable that matches the main building also survives. Rear elevation photos reproduced below show original rear double-deck porches, a common attribute of two-families.

The Scantlebury-Ogonyk Two-Family is part of a unified streetscape of similar two families that fill the surrounding blocks on the west side of Woburn Street. It is sited at a modest setback on a generous lot on the outside of a curve in Clewley Road where it veers north to meet Century Street. The lot expands to the rear where, like its neighbors fronting the south side of Clewley to the west, backs on to the north side of Corinne Road, which serves as a rear-access alley. However the subject house's garage is oriented toward Clewley, where it is accessed by a narrow asphalt drive on the east side of the house. This garage, constructed of rusticated cinderblock that matches the foundation of the main house, suggesting it is part of the original build, is two bays with a hipped roof. The surrounding garden is planted with open lawn and foundation plantings; occasional mature shade trees line the frontage, side and rear borders.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Scantlebury-Ogonyk Two-Family is part of a large, planned, residential subdivision that was constructed rapidly along Clewley Road and surrounding blocks during the mid-1920s. The house is named for its earliest long-term tenant and possible owner and subsequent long-term owner. Although it was not possible to complete a chain of title the initial purchase of the land and the possible identities of its developers were identified. Early 20th-century deeds and plans generally tell the likely story of its development by Willard Dalrymple and William N. Ambler.

Prior to Dalrymple's purchase of the area in 1902, depicted in a plan reproduced below as figure 2, it was part of the vast holdings in West Medford of the Brooks family going back to the late-17th century. In 1660 Thomas Brooks (d. 1667 at Concord), with his son-in-law Timothy Wheeler, purchased 400 acres east of the Mystic Lake and River in Medford for £404

¹ Thomas C. Hubka, *How the Working-Class Home Became Modern, 1900-1940* (University of Minnesota Press, 2020) pp. 117-129.

² For numerous depictions of these spaces see: Harris, McHenry & Baker Co., *101 Classic Homes of the Twenties* (Dover, 1990) and J.D. Loizeaux, *Classic Houses of the Twenties* (Dover, 1992).

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MEDFORD

75 CLEWLEY ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

--	--

(their title is transcribed in the manuscript genealogy but not cited). According to this genealogy, subdivisions of this land passed to several subsequent generations of the family, including Thomas' grandson Samuel Brooks (1700-1768) and great grandson Thomas Brooks (1732-1799). The family's homestead and principal residence for several generations during the 18th century was located across from a stretch of Grove Street between Jackson and Ravine roads behind the "Old Slave Wall" (MDF.905; recorded again in October of 2018; submission to MHC/ Macris pending). The house was demolished in 1860 by heirs of Gorham Brooks (1795-1855), the last of the family to reside there.³ A map of the Brooks holdings dated 1860 is reproduced below in figure 1. The identity of the grantor to Dalrymple in 1902 was Peter Chardon Brooks III (1831-1920), who, with his brother Shepherd (1837-1922) was actively selling portions of the family's holdings to real estate developers during the early 20th century. Both brothers had extensive seasonal country seats in the neighborhood: Peter Chardon "Point of Rocks" (by Calvert Vaux, demolished) and Shepherd "Acorn Hill" (by Peabody and Stearns, extant, MDF.81, NRIND 4/21/1975). When Dalrymple purchased the land in 1902 he immediately gave a mortgage to the Medford Savings Bank for \$7,000 due in 5 years at 5%, later discharged in portions.⁴

Regarding the identities of the subdivision's owners and developers Willard Dalrymple and William N. Ambler little could be ascertained. Dalrymple (1850-1929), born in Maine, was a son of Henry T. and Mary A. Delano of Charlestown, where he grew up. His father was a carpenter. Court records indicated he changed his name from Willard Dalrymple Delano to Willard Dalrymple in 1885. During the 1900s Dalrymple resided at 404 High Street, Medford (currently the site of the Congregational Church of West Medford, 400 High Street, MDF.773), a large house labelled with his name in 1898. By 1920 he had moved to Newton to 859 Beacon Street and later 52 Crescent Avenue. Census returns identified him as a trustee of real estate, and he was frequently identified as playing a role in large real estate transactions in reporting by *Boston Daily Globe's* Charles W. Rastarick during the early 20th century. Little else regarding his life or activities could be readily ascertained.⁵ In 1922 the property depicted on the 1902 plan was conveyed to William N. Ambler. Ambler immediately gave Dalrymple a mortgage of \$33,000 due in 5 years at 6%. Ambler (born Mar. 1854) was an even more mysterious figure than Dalrymple. He resided at 130 and later 133 Monument Street, Medford as a boarder. His occupation was listed as clerk in a law office. Between 1914 and 1926 he was involved on both sides of 33 transactions in the Boston region according to the *Boston Globe's* real estate reporting, but nothing else regarding his activities could be ascertained. Circumstances suggest he acted as a shell for many of these transactions. Further research may explain their roles and the involvement of others, including builders, in the subdivision's development.⁶

The 1924 Medford city directory, the first with a street index, suggests no improvements had yet taken place on Clewley Road by that time. The 1926 directory listed 10 addresses on Clewley but no number 75. Between 1928 and 1938 part of the building was occupied by Herbert J. Scantlebury, a manager, and his wife Hannah M. The other apartment was occupied by William C. Clement, a plumber, and his wife, Victoria J., in 1928 and by Roscoe W. Brooks, a CPA, and his wife, Gunhild, in 1938. In 1948 the property was acquired by John Ogonik, Jr. (1919-1994), a psychologist, and his wife Elaine S. (Danlowitz) Ogonik (1925-2012) and various records listed the subject house as their address. The property was sold by their heirs in 2012.⁷

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps and atlases:

- 1855 H.F. Walling. "Map of Medford...."
- 1875 F. W. Beers, *County Atlas of Middlesex, Massachusetts*.
- 1880 O. H. Bailey [Bird's Eye View of] Medford.
- 1889 Geo. H. Walker & Co., *Atlas of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*.
- 1898 Geo. W. Stadly & Co., *Atlas of the City of Medford....*

³ P.C. Brooks, Sr., Gorham Brooks, William G. Brooks, Charles Brooks, Shepherd Brooks, *History and Genealogy of the Brooks Family of Medford, Massachusetts* (Manuscript, 1885), courtesy of the collection of the Medford Brooks Estate Land Trust Archives (MBELT).

⁴ MCSRD 2991:63-64 (1902); partial release: 3808:462, 3147:232, 4004:390.

⁵ Ancestry.com: 1870, 1880, 1900, 1920 Federal Census; 1931 Newton city directory; *Private and Special Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Vol. XV* (1882-1888; 1889) p. 991.

⁶ Ancestry.com: 1900, 1920 Federal Census; on-line access to registered land and plans is limited; a visit to the county registry should expand the ownership history of this subdivision.

⁷ Certificates of Title 253091 (2012); 65187 (1948); see property search under registered land, 75 Clewley Road, for death certificates.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MEDFORD

75 CLEWLEY ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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1900 Geo. W. Stadly & Co., *Atlas of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, Volume 1.*

1892, 1897, 1903, 1910, 1936, 1936-1950 Sanborn Insurance Atlases.

Ancestry.com: see footnotes

Charles Brooks and James M. Usher, *History of the Town of Medford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, From its First Settlement in 1630 to 1855; Revised, Enlarged and Brought Down to 1885* (Rand, Avery & Co., 1886)

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, in notes as MCSRD book:page.

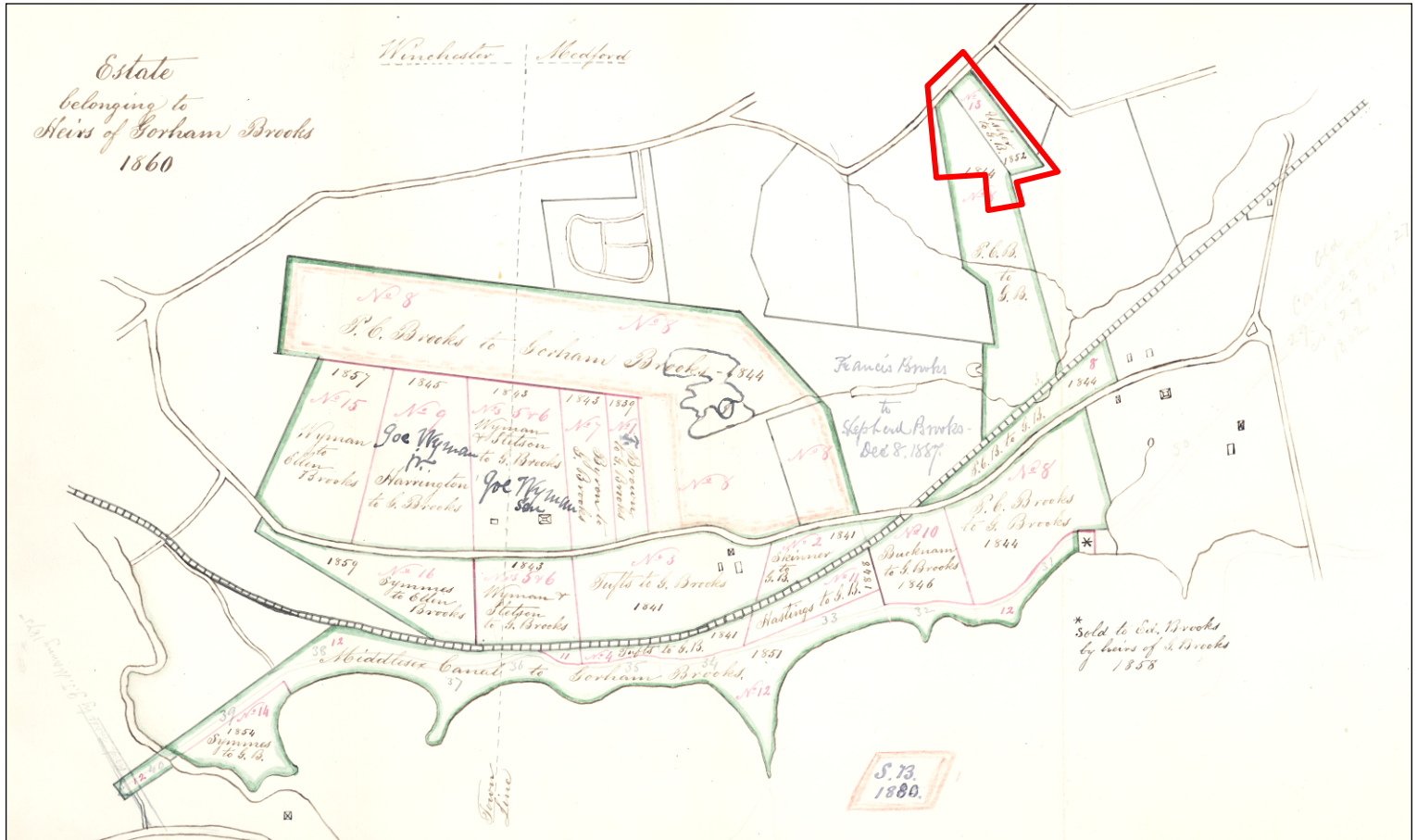


Figure 1. Courtesy of the collection of the Medford Brooks Estate Land Trust Archives (MBELT) depicting the holdings of the heirs of Gorham Brooks in 1860. The approximate outline of the Dalrymple-Ambler subdivision is outlined in red. The road running across the top of this image is Woburn Street. A plan recorded in 1902 is reproduced below.

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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

--	--

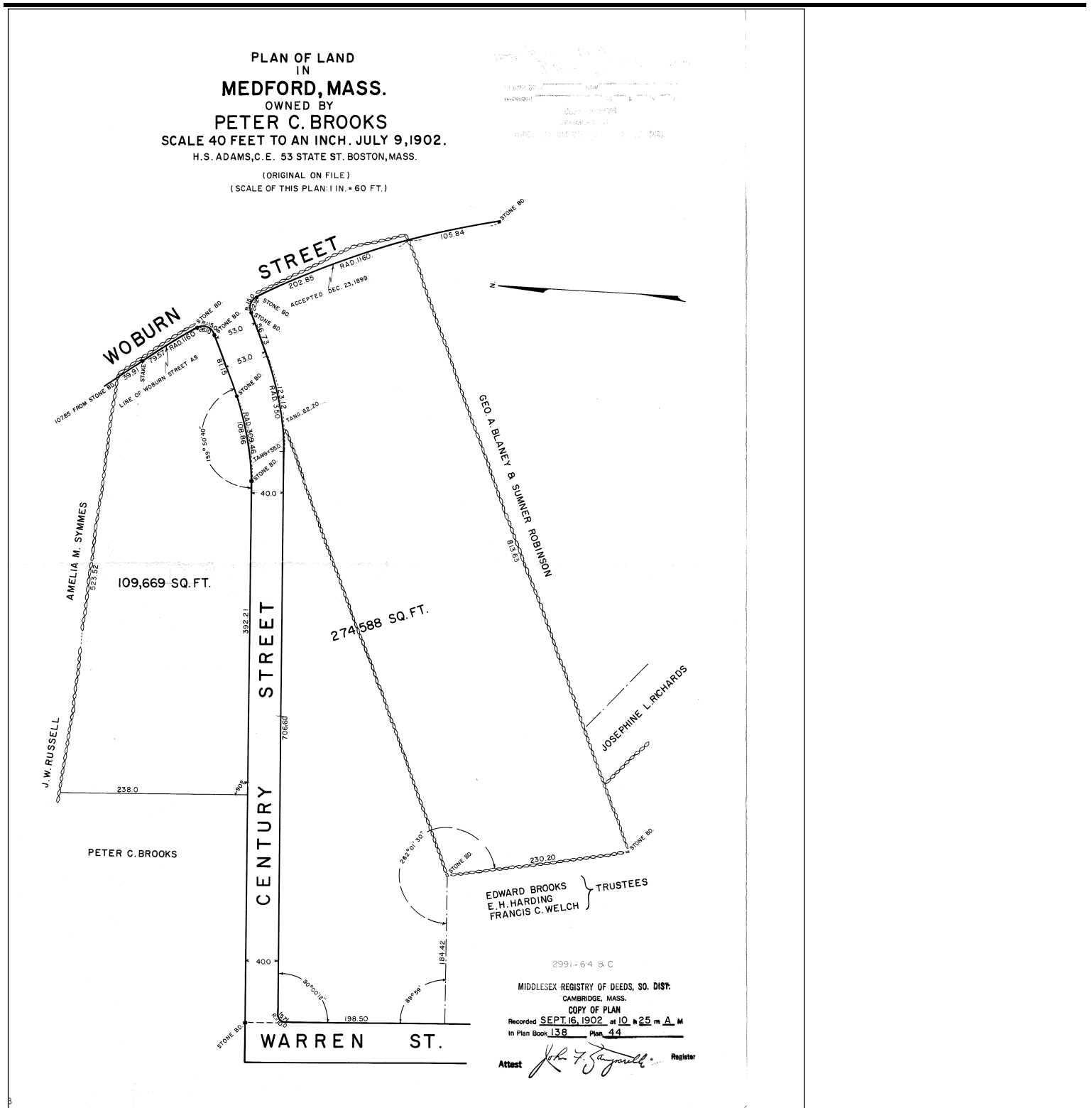


Figure 2. MCSRD Plan 138:44 (1902) depicting the land purchased by Dalrymple from Brooks. Clewley Street, not yet planned or constructed, will run east (up) from Warren Street and curve into Century Street as it approaches Woburn Street. Note that north is left.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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Area(s)

Form No.



Interior photo of first-floor apartment showing the living room and sun parlor combined (likely originally separated by a wall with a single or French door. Note that casings are generally intact. Realtor.com accessed 8/24/2021.



First floor dining room with original casements and built-ins. Realtor.com accessed 8/24/2021.

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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

--	--



Rear elevation showing double-deck porches and detached garage. Realtor.com accessed 8/24/2021.



View from NW showing left elevation and detached garage. Photo by JDC.