

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

**Inventory No:** NWT.2994  
**Historic Name:** O'Brien, Stephen House  
**Common Name:**  
**Address:** 74-76 Cummings Rd  
**City/Town:** Newton  
**Village/Neighborhood:** Newton Center  
**Local No:** NC-217  
**Year Constructed:** c 1885  
**Architect(s):**  
**Architectural Style(s):** Queen Anne  
**Use(s):** Multiple Family Dwelling House  
**Significance:** Architecture  
**Area(s):**  
**Designation(s):**  
**Building Materials(s):** Wall: Aluminum Siding



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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NWT. 2994  
2994

AREA	FORM NO.
150	NC-217

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108



Newton Center

s 74-76 Cummings Road

ic Name \_\_\_\_\_

Present Dwelling - 2 family

iginal Dwelling - 2 family

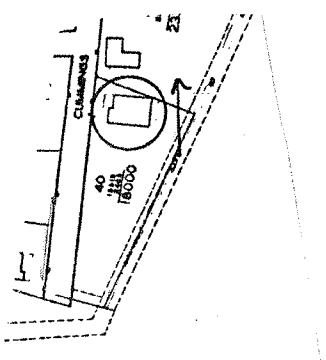
RIPTION:

1885

ce Assessor's Records

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.



Style Queen Anne

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior wall fabric aluminum siding

Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_

Major alterations (with dates) screened in porch, siding

Moved Yes Date c. 1917

Approx. acreage 18,000 sq. ft.

Setting Faces west on lower end of slope.

Recorded by Architectural Preservation Associates

Organization Newton Historical Commission

Date May 15, 1983

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This 2 family house was moved to its present site c. 1917 and is unusual in its configuration for the neighborhood, which is predominantly of simple gable houses. More complex in its massing, the house is 2½ stories in height, has 2 offset pavillions, one of which contains the porches. Gabled dormers appear on the south side of the roof adding to the picturesque quality of the house.

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

Built by Stephen O'Brien c. 1885, this house was moved to its present location in 1915 to make way for City Hall, a few blocks away. Originally, it was located at 367 Homer Street. Stephen O'Brien was a builder, as were many of the Irish immigrants who settled in West Newton. He built this house as a 2-family residence, a practice which began more seriously decades after this house's construction. The area was known on the 1874 Atlas as Cold Spring City, named for the spring which crosses it, but was known more commonly as Cork City for the number of residents who came from County Cork, Ireland. Mary Morrison, who lives there today, is a descendant of one such resident, Stephen O'Brien. Her grandfather was employed by the nearby cemetery and 2 women in the family were city employees, a well-known pattern of employment among the Irish in West Newton.

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

) Mary Morrison, resident of house, 1983

) Newton's 19th Century Architecture: West Newton, 1978, Newton Historical Commission