

FORM B - BUILDING

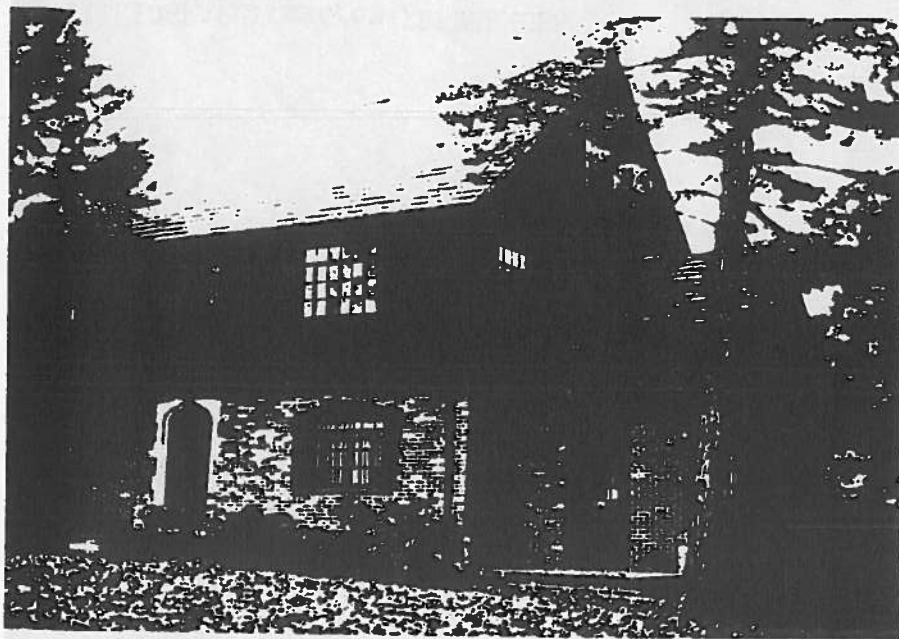
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

Area

B

Form no.

4-1



Belmont

is 4 and 10 Essex Road
15 Indian Hill Road

ic Name NA

Original Single family dwellings

Present Same

Ship: ☒ Private individual^s
Private organization

Public

Original owner Alexander Marvin
(15 Indian Hill Road built for
William I. Norton)

PTION:

LOCATION IN RELATION TO NEAREST
cross streets and other buildings
or geographical features.
Indicate north.

Date 1929

Source Building permits

Style Eclectic English-derived

Architect Hawley Morton

Exterior wall fabric Brick with stone and
wood trim, some shingling and half-
timbering
Outbuildings Detached garage (each)

Major alterations (with dates)

Moved No

Date

4 Essex Rd.: 6225 sq. ft.
Approx. acreage 10 Essex Rd.: 6045 sq. ft.
15 Indian Hill Rd.: 5461 sq. ft.
Setting On carefully manicured small

lots on quiet, well shaded side street
at the center of Payson Park

Recorded by Marcia M. Cini

Organization Boston University

Date September 1982

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

These houses are the work of English architect Hawley Morton. They, as well as their settings, are notable for quality of design and materials as well as for continuing integrity. Fine craftsmanship and attention to detail (arched windows, carefully laid up chimnies and slate roofs, varied materials and massing, etc.) make them outstanding examples of moderate sized homes built to satisfy Belmont's late 1920s taste for English-derived styles.

Note: It is likely that further research will verify the addresses of the 8 additional Hawley Morton houses (see Historical Significance) which should then be included in this listing.

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

The historical significance of these houses is two-fold. First, they represent quality late 1920s residential development carried out to suit an aesthetia appropriate to the site and increasingly popular both locally and nationally.

Further, the tract of which they are a part is the former location of the "Bellmont" mansion itself. The Cushing-Payson-Benton mansion, which had burned, and its grounds were purchased in 1929 by active Belmont developer Alexander Marvin. He engaged Hawley Morton to design 11 houses to be built thereon once the site was regraded. According to Richard Betts, many foundation blocks as well as "brick veneered from brick taken from the old two foot thick walls that formed part of the boundary line of the estate" were used in their construction.

Note: The only other building materials known to survive from the original "Bellmont" estate are a 165 foot garden wall section behind 26 and 30 Preble Gardens Road; 10 Carrara marble columns re-erected to form a pergola on the grounds of Glen Magna, Danvers, MA; a stained glass window given by the mansion's last owner to the Town of Belmont (now stored at Town Hall; and library panelling (probably from the Payson period) now being stored at the Society For The Preservation of New England Antiquities fragment barn, Watertown.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Betts, Richard. The Streets of Belmont and How They Were Named.
" Historical Souvenir, Belmont Centennial 1859-1959". The Belmont Citizen, 1959, p.4-5.

Reichlin, E. (SPNEA Librarian). Telephone interview, September 1982.
Visits to Glen Magna, Danvers, and SPNEA fragment barn, Watertown, in September and October 1982.