

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 WASHINGTON STREET BOSTON

AREA	FORM NO.
W	204



Belmont  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 232 Washington Street  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Historic Name The Charles King House

Present residence  
 Original farmhouse

DESCRIPTION:  
 1853-8

Camilla French article in  
 Source Belmont Citizen, Sept. 19, 1974.

SKETCH MAP



Style Stick Style/ Gothic Revival  
 Architect NA  
 Exterior wall fabric wood clapboard and shingle  
 Outbuildings none  
attached garage converted to family  
 Major alterations (with dates) attached garage converted to family  
room

Moved NA Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approx. acreage slightly over 1 acre  
 Setting Visible, but set well back from street, nearly three times as far as surrounding 20th c Revival development

Recorded by Jura Lucas  
 Organization Boston University  
 Date November 1982

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The King House (BEL-82-18-26-26A) is significant as a rare and excellent example of a Gothic Revival Stick Style house in Belmont, meeting Criterion C of the National Register.

It is a cross gable plan house surfaced in clapboards and shingles, with Gothic influences such as pointed windows and dormers. Exposed bracing supports dormers, gable, portico and side porch. The prominent gable wing is enlivened by a projecting first story bay window with shingled hood, board-and-batten siding in the gable, and pointed windows with matching closing shutters.

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

The house's historical significance lies in its association with the King and Hold families, important in Belmont's development, therefore meets criterion A of the National Register.

The area once belonged to Leonard Stone, a successful contractor who directed the grading of the Mt. Auburn Cemetery. As a market gardener and second largest taxpayer in 1859, he was actively involved in Belmont's incorporation.

His daughter, Helen, married Charles King, an importer and manufacturer of nautical and mathematical instruments, and the couple built this house about 1853. He died shortly thereafter in 1858. One of their sons, Leonard, became a gentleman farmer, keeping the estate productive until after his mother's death in 1896. Leonard Stone King was a Belmont Library trustee in 1873, and assessor in 1877.

In 1903, Charles Stone King sold the family house and property to Rollin L. Holt, who lived there with his wife, Mary Louise Houghton Shaw, and farmed most of the land for almost twenty years.

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

French, Mrs. Frank E., "The Charles King House," Belmont Citizen, Sept. 19, 1974.

Building Department Records