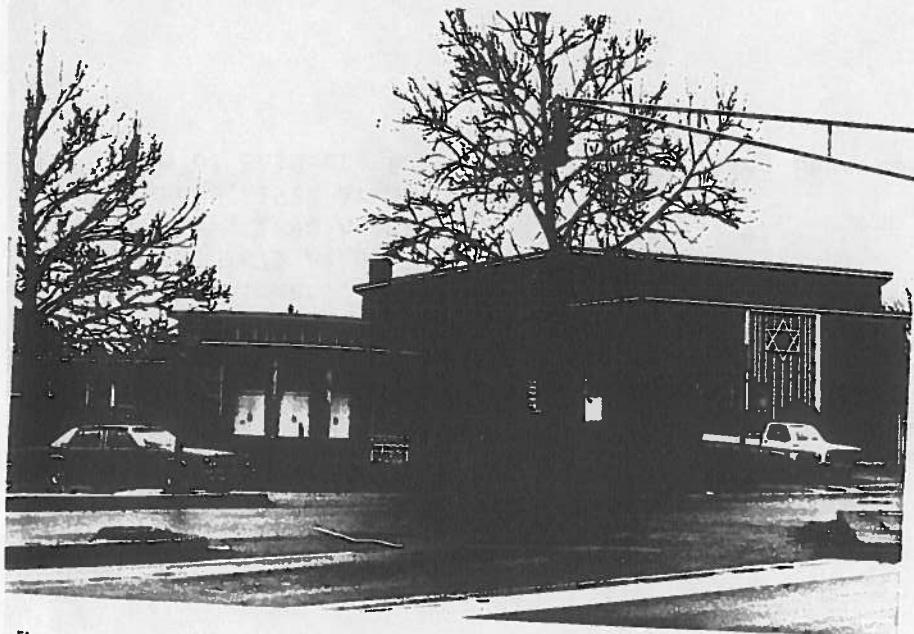


FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
C <sup>4</sup>	21-3



Belmont

Address 2 Concord Avenue

Historic Name Richardson Farm

Present Synagogue

Original Synagogue

Description:

1954

Source Engineering Department

Style Modern

Architect Lilly Construction Co.

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings none

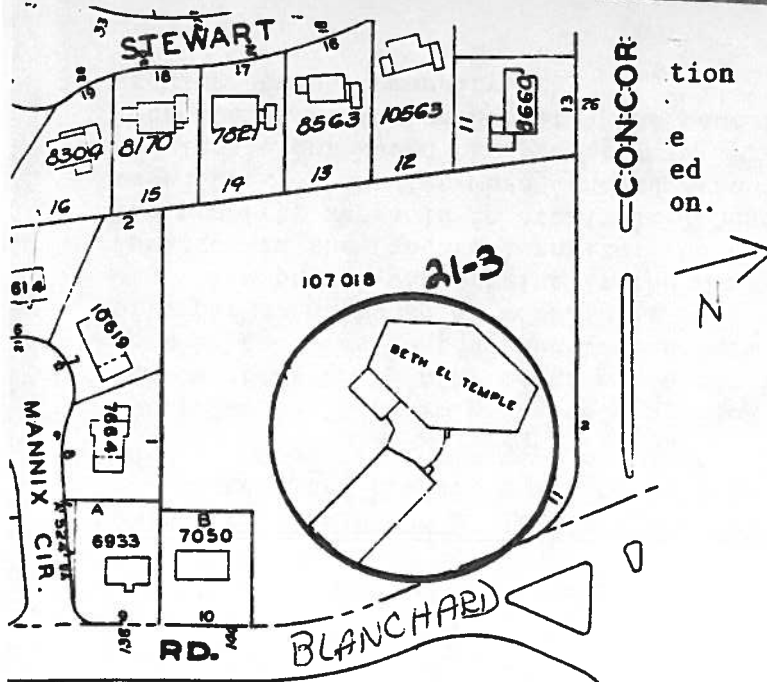
Major alterations (with dates) none

Moved n/a Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. acreage 107,015 sq. ft.

Setting large corner lot off major commercial thoroughfare at Cambridge

border, heavily landscaped



Recorded by Frankie Lieberman

Organization Boston University Preservation Studies

Date 28 September 1982

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

Temple Beth El is less distinguished for its architecture than for its association with the town's development. As is true of other houses of worship in the town it is set off in a large lot and nicely landscaped. The building and grounds are very well maintained.

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

Temple Beth El is the only synagogue in the Town of Belmont and for this reason deserves special mention. After the Second World War many Jews moved from urban areas to the suburbs and Belmont was no exception. The appearance of a permanent house of worship is very much in keeping with 1950's demographics.

The parcel was originally the homestead of Richard Richardson who was a major investor in the Concord Turnpike. He built an inn here in the late 18th C. The property was sold to Archibald Johnson between 1875 and 1898. The house was moved back on the lot when Concord Avenue was widened in 1934 and demolished when the Temple purchased the property in 1954. Temple Beth El moved from a previous location on Lexington Street. The need for a larger building is indicative of a growing Jewish community.

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

Betts, Richard, The Streets of Belmont . . . , p.302  
Beers, 1875 Atlas  
Stadley, 1898 Atlas  
Sanborn, 1922 Atlas  
Town of Belmont, Building and Engineering Departments

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA. 02108

Form numbers in this area	Area letter
21-3	C <sup>4</sup>



Belmont

area (if any) Stewart Terrace

date or period 1947-1954

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Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)

See precinct map attached (Street Atlas p.21)

Recorded by Frankie Lieberman

Organization Boston University  
Preservation Studies

Date 11 December 1982

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

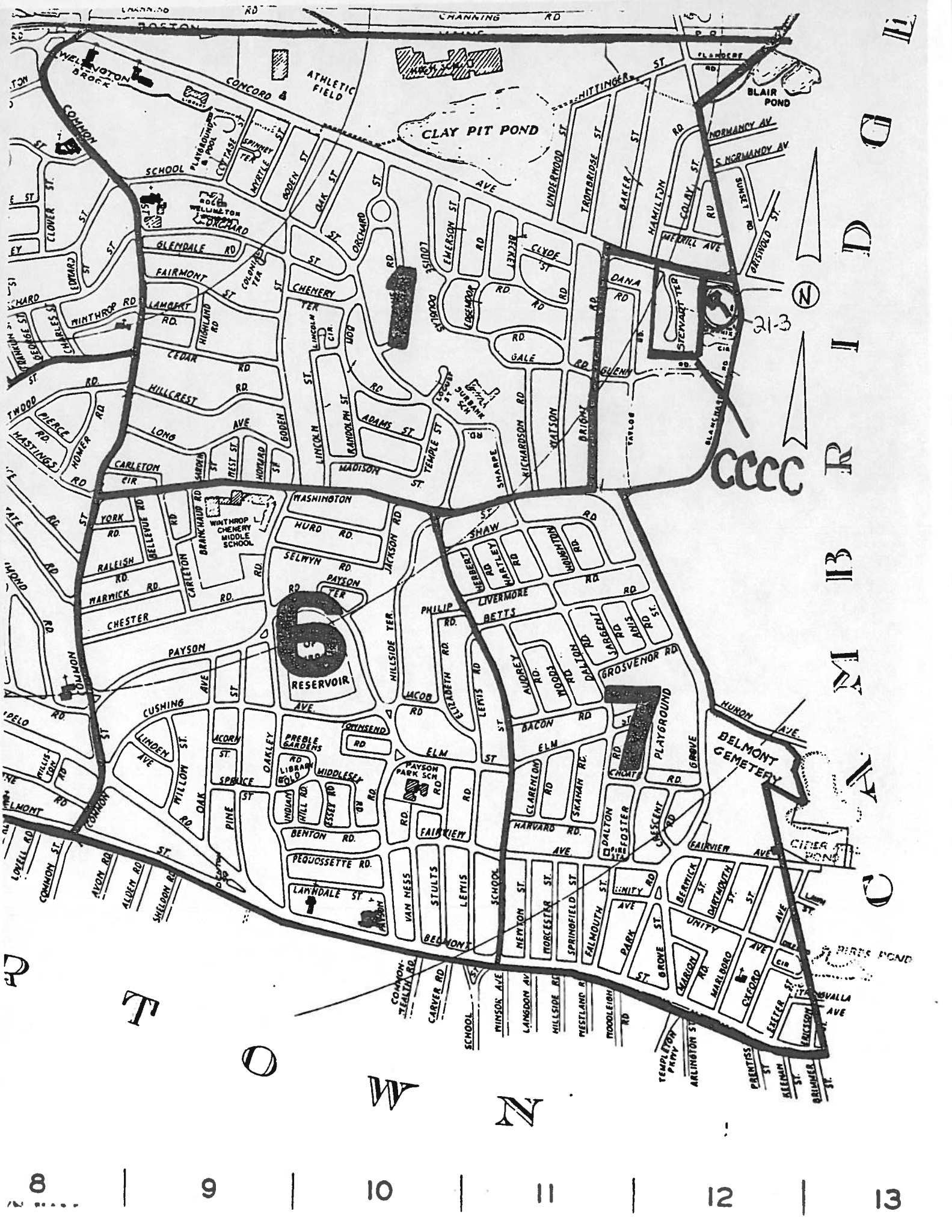
This cul-de-sac is typical of mid-20th C. development in Belmont. These fifteen houses are representative of the small house ethic prevalent just after World War II and express the ideal of American architecture in their style: Colonial Revival, split level and ranch (4 Stewart Ter. (28-7)). The houses have uniform setbacks on lots ranging from 7,500 to 9,000 sq. ft. (the two back lots are larger), and are all well landscaped and have many trees. The recentness of this kind of tract development and its attendant architectural vocabulary are too new to evaluate in traditional terms. Therefore no significant structures are recorded (except for the synagogue in Form 21-3) but a streetscape photograph (28-6) is appended which reveals the character of the area.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

As is true in the adjacent areas (A<sup>4</sup>, E<sup>4</sup> and Y) Stewart Terrace was initially part of the Richardson Farm. The pressures brought by expanding population made subdivision inevitable. However, in 1873 the history of this six acre parcel diverged from that of the rest of the Richardson property. The town bought the land and built the police station and jail on it. Vagrants were housed here overnight: in return for working a few hours in the gravel pits they were given a warm place to sleep and a meal. It was a favorite stop for "tramps" coming and going from Boston on the Concord Turnpike. The buildings were used as a police station until 1881, as a yard for the highway department until 1920, and as a yard for the sewer department until 1934 when they were demolished. At that time the parcel was offered for sale and finally Andrew Westlund bought and subdivided the area in 1946. World War II apparently caused the hiatus.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Betts, Richard, The Streets of Belmont . . . , pp. 299-302  
Beers, 1875 Atlas  
Stadley, 1898 Atlas  
Sanborn, 1922 Atlas



BELMONT MASSACHUSETTS