

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA R <sup>2</sup>	FORM NO. 25-5
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Belmont

Address 35 Clover Street

Historic Name Weeks-Fremming House

Present single-family residence

Original single-family residence

DESCRIPTION:

1895

Source Building Dept. Records

Style Shingle

Architect possibly Wm. Richardson

Exterior wall fabric Shingles

Outbuildings -

Major alterations (with dates)

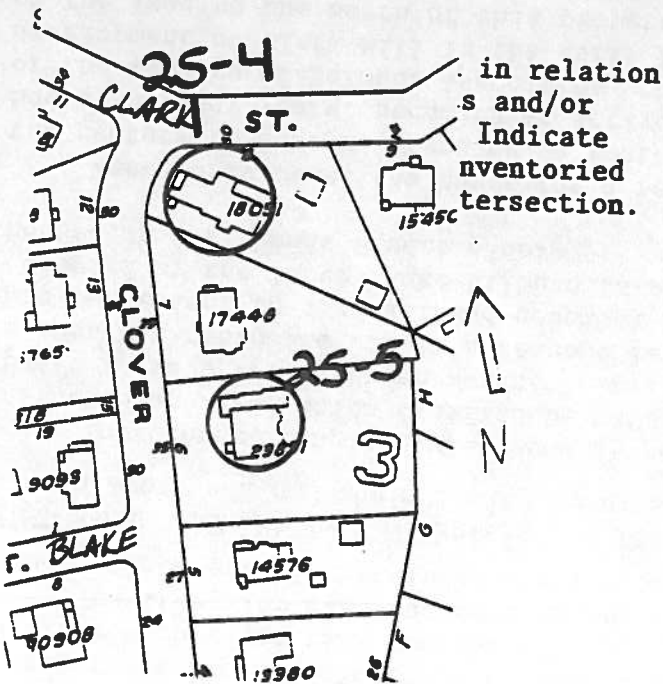
porch altered--date unknown

Moved - Date -

Approx. acreage less than 1 acre

Setting Quiet residential neighborhood

of Clark Hill



in relation  
to streets and/or  
lot lines. Indicate  
circled inventoried  
structures at  
intersection.

Recorded by Judy Williams

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.)

No. 35 Clover Street is an excellent example of the Shingle Style of the late 19th century, exemplified by its broad roof lines and wall surfacing of shingles. Other features of the building are more Colonial Revival in derivation, such as the porch, indicating a flexibility in design. The architect for this house is not known, but further research should focus on uncovering the origins of this design. The architect William Richardson is a possibility.

The irregular main facade features an elongated gable, clipped gable roof, and random placement of the windows, which include both an oriel bay and an oculus window.

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

This large Shingle Style house is an excellent representation of the country house or suburban ideal which typified Belmont Hill in the late 19th century. The house was built in 1895 for H. Hazen Weeks, a wealthy Boston egg and butter merchant who sought a suburban residence within a reasonable distance from Boston. The Clark Hill location was convenient to the railroad depot at Belmont Center but remained an exclusive area, occupied by the large Blake-Kilburn Estate, the Belmont Tennis Club, and a few houses on its Thomas Street side.

Weeks only owned the house for a few years, selling shortly after the turn of the century to John E. Frenning, a Boston stove merchant. Frenning occupied the house for many years, becoming an active participant in local affairs. He was one of the members of Belmont Associates, the trust formed to coordinate the orderly development of Clark Hill in the early 20th century. Frenning retained ownership of the land to the north of this property, eventually deeding it to his daughter and her husband who built the house at 39 Clover Street in 1930. Frenning's son John J. Frenning also stayed in the neighborhood, building the house at 65 Clark Street in 1922.

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

Interview with Francis E. Tubby, 39 Clover Street, early resident of this house.

Interview with Barbara Lewis, current owner.

Belmont Town Directory, 1896-97

Belmont Town Directory, 1907

Belmont Town Atlas, 1898

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: <i>Belmont</i>	Form No: <i>25-5</i>
Property Name: <i>Weeks - Frenning Hse</i>	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Architectural Significance:

A molded string course appears above the first story. The building has two entries, a front entry portico with vertical lattice-work and a side entry which was probably created when the porch was partially enclosed. The porch is Colonial Revival with four Doric column supports and a sweeping conical roof, the main feature of the building. It originally extended the length of the northern facade, according to the current owner, but was enclosed to provide more living space. The gable on this facade is decorated with half timbering and scroll-like features.

Relationship to Criteria for National Register listing: The Weeks-Frenning House qualifies for individual listing on the National Register in that it meets criteria A, B, C, and D, as described above. It is particularly outstanding in the quality of its architectural design, which has been well preserved through the years.