

Form B - Building

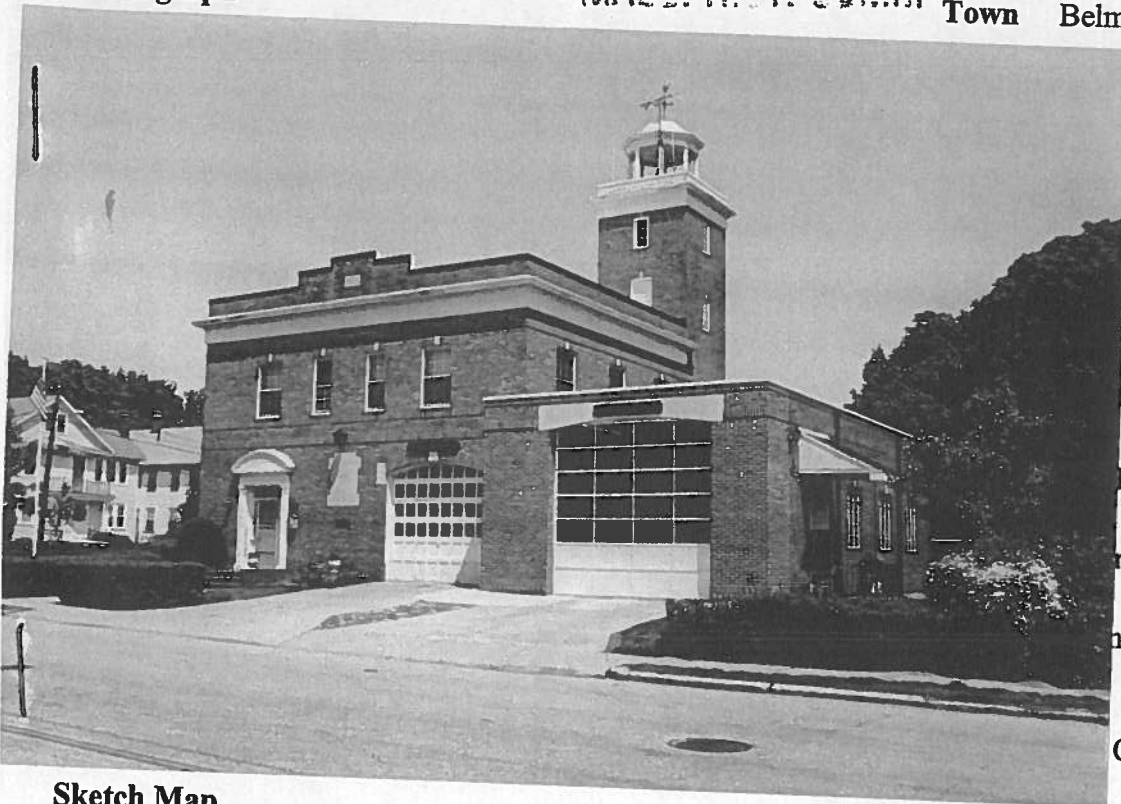
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

RECEIVED
Assessor's #
JUN 03 2003

USGS Quad Area(s) Form #
By 105

Photograph

MA Town Belmont 85 Fairview Avenue



hood/village) Harvard

irview Avenue at Dalton

Harvard Lawn Fire

fire station

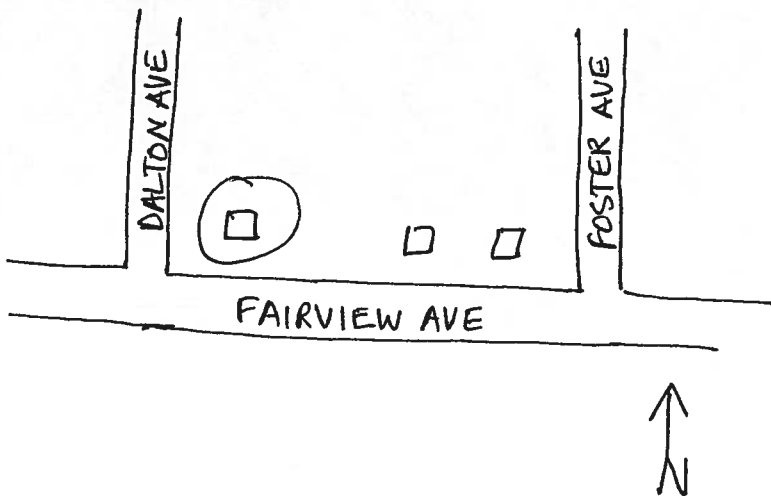
fire station

struction 1928

n Reports 1927-28; date

Colonial Revival

Sketch Map



Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation concrete

Wall/Trim red brick/limestone

Roof composition??

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures n/a

Major Alterations

new exterior doors and some new windows
east side addition 1957

Condition fair

Moved no

Acreage 12,304 sq. ft.

Setting early 20th century residential
neighborhood at east end of Belmont

Recorded By Candace Jenkins
Organization Belmont Historic District Commission
Date (month/year) May, 2003

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

page 2

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community **Belmont**
Property Name, Address **Harvard Lawn Fire Station, 87 Fairview Avenue**

Area (s) B-4 Form No. 10-1 165

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Describe architectural features. Evaluate characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The Colonial Revival style Harvard Lawn Fire Station is the centerpiece of a residential neighborhood at the eastern end of Belmont. The building is similar in style and date to its neighbors while its slightly larger scale and masonry construction identify it as an institutional building. Foundation plantings and a perimeter hedge also help to integrate the building into its surroundings.

Constructed in 1928, it is built on a four by four bay rectangular plan, and rises two stories from a concrete foundation and raised basement to a flat roof hidden behind a parapet. A hose drying tower with an open wooden cupola rises from the southeast (rear) corner of the building. A one story wing was added to the east side of the building in 1957 to house a larger ladder truck. It matches the original building in materials and detail.

Exterior walls are red brick laid up in common bond. They are trimmed with a substantial wooden cornice, two rows of raised soldier courses between the stories and a single row above the second story. The primary facade is centered on a large stone plaque that reads "BELMONT FIRE STATION". To the left is a pedestrian entrance with a wooden surround consisting of pilasters rising to a well-proportioned segmental arch pediment. A replacement door is framed by sidelights and a transom. To the left is a vehicular entrance beneath a segmental brick arch with limestone keystone and endblocks. It retains a wood paneled and glazed overhead door. A sign above says Engine 3. Four windows are spaced across the second story. The two outer windows contain 6/6 sash. The two inner windows are narrower and contain 4/4 sash. All have narrow brick header sills and splayed soldier course lintels with limestone keystones. A 1928 datestone is centered in the stepped parapet that rises above the facade. First story window openings on the west side elevation are round arched and contain metal multi-pane sash.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The Belmont Fire Department was organized in 1873 under a Board of Engineers. At that time, the department consisted of a chief, three assistant engineers and seventy call men. The primary piece of equipment, a Babcock Chemical Fire Extinguisher with 200' of hose was kept in a leased building on Pleasant Street. Upon completion of the Belmont Town Hall in 1882, this engine was moved to a room in the basement. A 40,000 gallon reservoir was constructed at Concord Ave. and Pleasant Street in 1882. All of these locations are in Belmont Center. Thirty-seven hydrants were erected throughout the town in 1887 when town water became available. The earliest fire stations were small wood-frame structures located at Cushing Square, Belmont Center, and Brighton Street.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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**Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125**

Community **Belmont**
Property Name, Address **Harvard Lawn Fire Station, 87 Fairview Avenue**

Area (s) **B7** Form No. **10-1 165**

The fire company at Harvard Lawn was organized in 1899, the same year that the first masonry station house was erected in Belmont Center (see form). It consisted of a hose wagon with 500' of hose. Land for a station on Fairview Avenue was purchased from Edward F. Skahan for \$475 in 1903. It appears that an existing wood frame building was moved to the site in 1908 and converted to station use. It was staffed by six men and equipped with two hand reels and 700' of hose. In 1910, the town's first motorized fire truck was housed there. This structure was replaced by the current fire station in 1928. The new building cost \$27,850. A one bay addition of 1957 cost \$20,000.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Belmont Historical Society Newsletter. December 1974.

Belmont Historical Society. *Images of America*.

Betts, Richard B. *History of Belmont Fire Department Buildings 1826-1954*; prepared for Committee on Fire Department Study and Review. 1972.

X Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

**Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125**

Community
Property Name, Address

**Belmont
Harvard Lawn Fire Station, 87 Fairview Avenue**

Area (s) *131*

Form No. *10-1 1165*



Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125

Community

Property Address

Belmont

87 Fairview Avenue

By

165

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

Individually Eligible

Contributing to a potential historic district

Eligible only in a historic district

Potential historic district

Criteria:

A

B

C

D

Criteria Considerations:

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

Statement of Significance By: Candace Jenkins

The Harvard Lawn Fire Station possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and associations. It meets National Register criteria A and C on an individual basis. None of the criteria considerations apply.

This building has played an important role in the history of Belmont, especially its eastern section which developed from farmlands to a dense residential neighborhood in the early and mid-20th century. Dating to 1928, it meets criterion A for its role in extending fire protection to Belmont's residential east side. This was a major period of growth for the town, and the fire station is one of several Colonial Revival style municipal buildings constructed to serve the growing population. Others include the Municipal Light Department (1925/1934), the Police Station (1930), the Burbank School (1931), and the Winbrook School (1934).

The Harvard Lawn Fire Station also meets criterion C as a well-designed work of architecture in the Colonial Revival style. Distinctive elements include the segmental arched pedestrian entry, bold wooden cornice, limestone keystones, round-arched windows, and prominent cupola above the hose-drying tower. The building remains as an important and well-integrated component of its residential neighborhood.

Original yellow form: Eligibility file
Copies: Inventory form
Town file(w/corresp.)
Macris
NR director _____

Community: Belmont

MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received: 6/3/03 Date Due: 6/17/03 Date Reviewed: 6/4/03

Type: Individual District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name: Harvard Lawn Fire Station Inventory Form: #165

Address: 87 Fairview Avenue at Dalton Road

Requested by: LHC

Action: Honor ITC Grant R & C Other: Planning

Agency:

Staff in charge of Review: BF

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

DISTRICTS

Eligible
 Eligible, also in district
 Eligible only in district
 Ineligible
 More information needed

Eligible
 Ineligible
 More information needed

CRITERIA:

A

B

C

D

LEVEL:

Local

State

National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by Betsy Friedberg

Built in 1928, the Harvard Lawn Fire Station is historically significant for its role in extending fire protection to Belmont's residential east side during a major period of growth for the town. It is one of several municipal buildings of the period constructed to serve the growing population. It is architecturally significant as a well-designed and detailed Colonial Revival-style building with a prominent, cupola-topped rear hose tower and a lateral ell of 1957 designed to house an additional engine. The building has new vehicular doors and some windows have been replaced.

#165

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA <u>x3</u>	FORM NO. <u>10-1</u>
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BY PL-fryer



Belmont

Fairview Avenue at Dalton Road

Name n/a

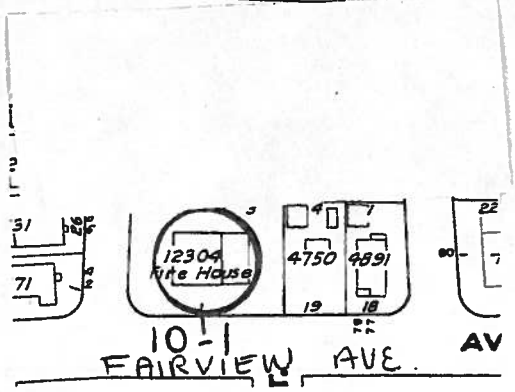
Present Fire House

Original Fire House

DESCRIPTION:
1928

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.



Source masonry insert on building

Style Colonial Revival

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) none

Moved n/a Date _____

Approx. acreage 12,304 sq.ft.

Setting corner lot, hedge at property perimeter, foundation shrubs

Recorded by Frankie Lieberman

Organization Boston University Preservation Studies

Date 12 December 1982

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The architectural significance of this building lies in the use of the Colonial Revival vocabulary so much in vogue in Belmont in the 1920s. Civic pride working hand-in-hand with the town's colonial identification saw many public buildings built at this time in similar styles -- such as the police station and electric light building on Leonard Street. Built in brick -- as are all of Belmont's public buildings -- Colonial details are picked out in the wooden, arched door frames and the use of masonry keystones on the windows and garage doors. The roof cupola is derivative of Georgian style "widow's walks" as well as of Italianate period towers, devices found on many of Belmont's older houses.

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

Historically, the development of this parcel mirrors the changes in Belmont in general. Originally the land was part of the Livermore farm, but as outside pressures made residential development more attractive than market gardening the area was subdivided for two-family housing in 1927. The town's need to provide essential services led to the building of a fire house here by 1922, the current building dates to 1928. The location chosen in the geographical center of densely built wooden structures, is an obvious choice for housing fire fighting equipment.

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

Beers, 1875 Atlas
Sanborn, 1922 Atlas
Building Department Records