

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

18-63	Boston North	O	BLM.374
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Town/City: Belmont

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Walnut Hill/Waverley

Address: 16 Cedar Road

Historic Name: Mary Dodd House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1912

Source: building permit

Style/Form: Classical/Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Allen W. Jackson, architect

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: stucco/wood

Roof: slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
garage (after 1949)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
2007 – rear addition

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 11,240 SF

Setting: neighborhood of similar early 20th century
historical revival style houses

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): December 2014

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

16 CEDAR ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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BLM.374

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

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

16 Cedar Road is a two-story Classical/Colonial Revival structure with a five bay façade. The stuccoed house is capped by a slate-covered hip roof with two tall, interior brick chimneys (originally stuccoed?) and a bold modillioned cornice. The center entrance is sheltered by a shallow portico supported by columns with fluting that does not extend to the capital, echoed by pilasters adjacent to the door. The Doric style, Classically-inspired frieze has triglyph blocks with guttae "drops" and there is an elliptical fanlight with keystone over the door. The facade window openings consist of double-hung 6/9 windows on the first floor with entablature lintels. Smaller 6/6 windows that also have shutters but are lacking lintels are located on the second floor, set above a stuccoed belt course that projects slightly. Fenestration on the lesser elevations and the rear hip-roofed wing (2007) that extends behind the east half of the house is more varied and less traditional.

The house is set close to the street on a quarter acre lot with hedges along the sidewalk. A driveway extends along the east side of the house, terminating at a post 1949 but sympathetic two-car garage. Like the main house it is stuccoed and capped by a hip roof. It was moved slightly to its present location in 1982.

The house at 16 Cedar Road is one of several architect-designed, stucco homes in various styles sited strategically throughout the Walnut Hill neighborhood, reportedly intended to influence the design choices of incoming homebuilders (*Town of Homes*: 34).

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 Walnut Hill subdivision was laid out in 1910 as a neighborhood of single-family residences that were developed gradually, lot by lot as opposed to the speculative type development that dominated most of Belmont's suburban growth. The property was subdivided by Winthrop L. Chenery, a prominent local resident who was a fruit farmer and also served in various important town positions. It was developed between 1910 and the early 1930s. Chenery placed "suitable, but not burdensome, restrictions" on the lots in the subdivision (Walnut Hill Real Estate Brochure).

The house at 16 Cedar Road was one of the earlier dwellings built in the Walnut Hill area and was constructed in 1912 for Mary Dodd, widow of Henry Ware Dodd, a Boston banker who had died in 1909. According to the 1920, 1930 & 1940 U.S. Census returns, Mrs. Dodd was living here with her daughter Ethel. By 1944 the house was occupied by another daughter, Mary Usher, widow of Kenneth Usher, a noted organist who died in 1943. The couple had married in 1909. Mary Usher continued to own the house until her death in 1980 at the age of 96.

Architect Allen Winchester Jackson (1875-1949) was born in Newton and studied architecture at MIT, graduating in 1897. Typical of the period, he designed residences in a variety of eclectic styles but the Classical/Colonial Revival style used for 16 Cedar Road did not seem to be typical of his work. His own home at 202 Brattle Street in Cambridge (1903) is English Revival in style and in 1912 he authored *The Half-Timber House: Its Origin, Design, Modern Plan and Construction*. In 1914 *House and Garden Magazine* published his article "What Style Shall We choose for the New House?". In addition to designing residences in Cambridge, Newton, Watertown and Long Island, building permit data indicates that he designed several houses in Belmont including the English Revival house at 200 Common Street (1912) and the Colonial Revival dwelling at 171 Marsh Road (1930).

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Belmont: The Architecture and Development of the Town of Homes. Prepared for the Belmont Historic District Commission, 1984.

Betts, Richard B. *The Streets of Belmont and How they Were Named (2nd edition).* Belmont: Belmont Historical Society, 2012.

Lucas, Nora. Area form for Walnut Hill (BLM.O), 1982.

Massachusetts Historical Commission, MACRIS database [information on Allen Jackson].

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA

Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1915, 1922, 1931, 1949.

Town of Belmont, Building Department files.

Walnut Hill Brochure, Belmont Memorial Library.