

## Clark Hill

The Clark Hill section of Belmont is located south of Belmont Center and is bordered on the east by Common Street, on the south by Waverley Street, on the west by Thomas Street and on the north by Clark Street. Although development first occurred in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the neighborhood largely reflects the subdivision of the area by the Belmont Associates in 1909. Many of the homes built on the resulting Blake, Clover and Kilburn Streets exhibit an English Revival or Craftsman aesthetic. The hilltop location, spacious lots with extensive landscaping and stone walls enhance these architect-designed dwellings and give the neighborhood a distinctive, picturesque character.

Clark Hill takes its name from the original Thomas Clark property that encompassed most of the land now bounded by Common Street, the railroad tracks and Waverley Street. (The Clark House stood at 59 Common Street but is no longer extant.) In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century the area was known as Mt. Pleasant and lots on Clark, Thomas, Waverley and Clover Street were laid out and sold at auction. The area was popular with Boston businessmen who erected comfortable residences in close proximity to the railroad station.

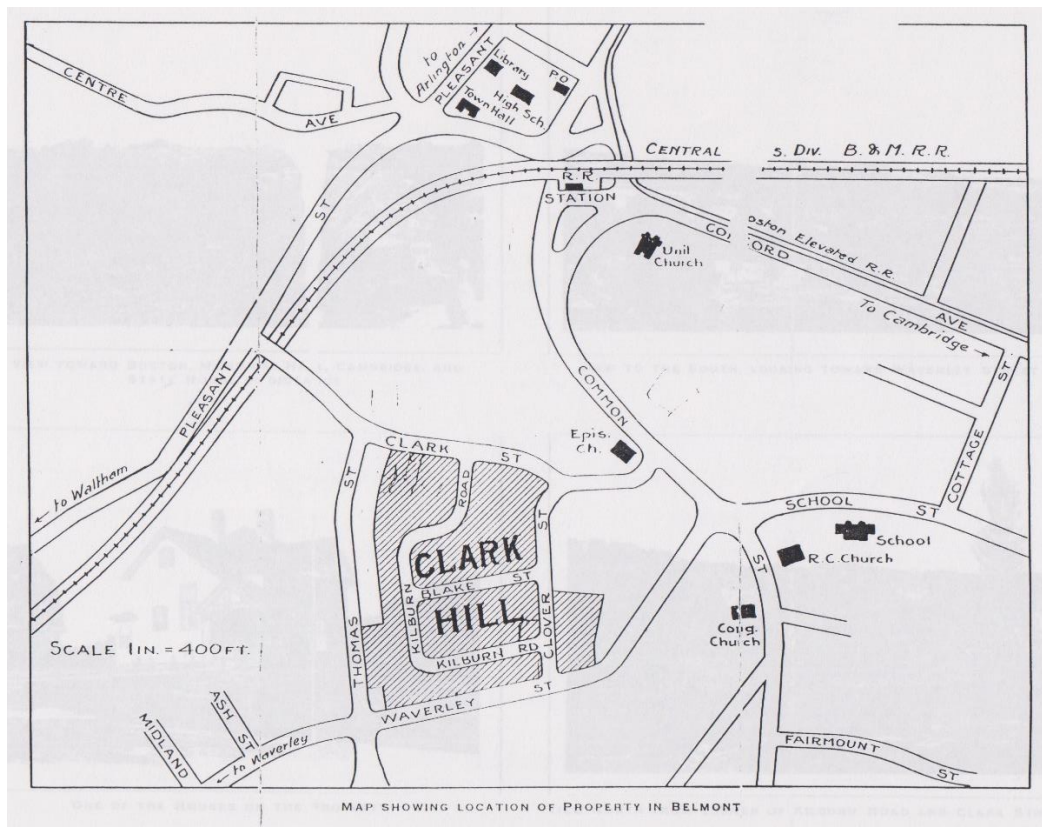
One house erected during this period - the Widow Brown Cottage at 81 Clark Street - is a rare local example of the Gothic Revival style displaying steeply-pitched gable roofs and vergeboards with finials that are characteristic of the style. It was built in the 1850s by the widow of James Brown of publishers Little, Brown and Company shortly after the death of her husband. It was originally used as a summer residence. An 1880s remodeling removed some of the original Gothic trim and added Colonial Revival elements.



*81 Clark Street*

Clark Hill remained an exclusive area in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Belmont Tennis Club was established in 1884 and still operates today at 45 Kilburn Road; it is one of the oldest tennis clubs in the country.

In 1904 the Italianate style Blake-Kilburn mansion was sold to a group of prominent local residents known as the Belmont Associates. In 1909 they laid out Kilburn Road and Blake Streets, named after the estate owners, and the mansion was razed. The subdivision they laid out, designed by landscape architect Loring Underwood, was one of the earliest efforts on the part of private citizens to regulate the density and nature of residential development in the town. The lots ranged in size from 7,000 to 10,000 square feet and in order to encourage the construction of “artistic” dwellings, plans of houses costing less than \$6,000 had to be submitted to the trustees for approval. Apartment houses and tenements were prohibited.



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The houses constructed on Kilburn, Clover and Blake Streets in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century constitute an interesting enclave of elegant homes. Many of these were designed in the English Revival and Arts and Crafts styles. Like the earlier residences in the neighborhood, owners typically commuted to work in Boston.

The house at 15 Clover Street is one of several architect-designed, stucco-finished houses in the Clark Hill neighborhood. The residence was designed by Boston architect William Cox who worked with Harvey Bailey Alden during this period. The influence of the English Revival/Arts and Crafts style is evident in the half-timbered gable and slightly flared eaves.



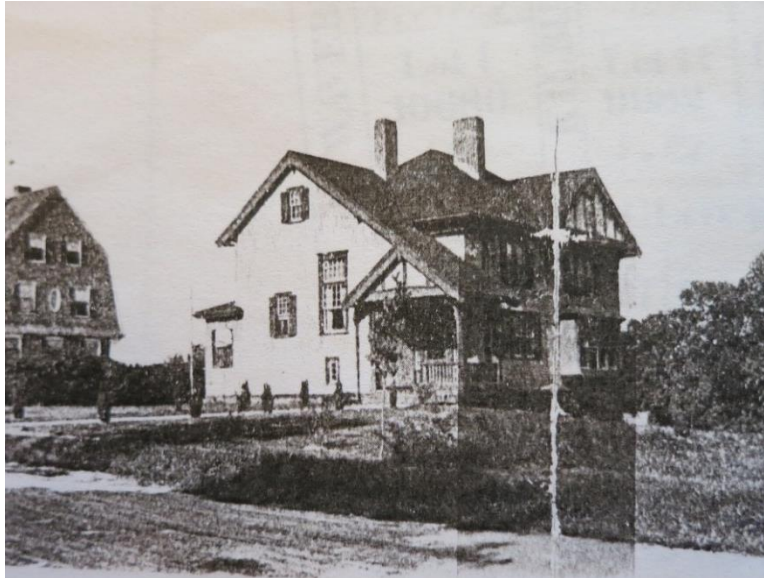
*15 Clover Street (historic view)*



*15 Clover Street (today)*



Harvey Bailey Alden was the architect of a similar stuccoed house with English Revival detailing at 27 Clover Street.



*27 Clover Street (ca. 1910)*



*27 Clover Street (today)*

The house at 1 Clover Street was designed by local architect H. Thaxter Underwood, nephew of landscape architect Loring Underwood.



*1 Clover Street*

Other unique houses in the neighborhood include 24 Clover Street which displays a Craftsman influence in its low hip roof with projecting eaves and exposed rafter tails. The sense of horizontality common to the Prairie Style is emphasized by the multi-light windows grouped into horizontal bands.



*24 Clover Street*

The house at 30 Clark Street is a free-spirited example of the Colonial Revival, combining elements of Colonial architecture in a decidedly non-traditional way. It was designed by Boston architects Kelley & Graves and constructed in 1910, at the same time as the adjacent Clark Hill dwellings but was not part of that subdivision.



*30 Clark Street*