

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

52-15	Boston North	AZ	BLM.148
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**Town/City:** Belmont

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Belmont Hill

**Address:** 184 Clifton Street

**Historic Name:** Alexander Ellis House

**Uses:** Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** 1929

**Source:** building permit

**Style/Form:** English Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Harry Demone, bldr.

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: brick

Roof: slate

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
none

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

1984 – new greenhouse in front

**Condition:** good

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

**Acreage:** 66,664 SF

**Setting:** set on well landscaped hillside lot, set back from road

## Photograph



## Locus Map (north at top)



**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Belmont Historic District Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): November 2016

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

184 CLIFTON STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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.*

The house at 184 Clifton Street is an excellent example of the brick Tudor Revival manor style house which found great popularity on Belmont Hill in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It has seen only minimal alterations since its construction in 1929. The rambling two-story house is capped by a slate roof which incorporates gabled, jerkinhead and hip-roofed portions. The house has multiple front gables and brick chimneys. The two-story façade gable is fronted by a crenellated two-story, three-sided bay with stone trim. Extending the line of the gable is a smaller gabled entrance porch. There are multiple groups of multi-paned casement windows and a line of three double-hung windows which descend in a diagonal, echoing the slope of the entrance porch roof below. The greenhouse projecting from the north end of the façade dates to 1983 but replaces an earlier (original) structure. The garage at the south end of the house is also an original feature.

The house is set back from the street with a screen of trees and stone wall along the road. The remainder of the lot is formally landscaped and includes open lawn, hedges and shaped evergreens.

## 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 house at 184 Clifton Street is located within the first phase of development of the Belmont Hill Company. In 1918 Henry O. Underwood formed the Company with other prominent local residents. They bought land on Belmont Hill with a goal of developing it slowly, in the way they thought was in the best interest of the town. The homes in this area were constructed between 1920 and 1932 on large lots ranging from  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 3 acres, laid out by Loring Underwood, Landscape Designer.

This house was constructed in 1929 on land owned by trustee Charles Trenholm. The builder was Harry W. Demone (d.1976). He was born in Canada about 1900 and moved to the United States with his wife Elsie in 1924. When this house was built, they were living in Somerville. According to Elsie's 2001 obituary she was her husband's designer/architect, interior decorator, banker, payroll clerk and bookkeeper. His career focused on small homes. MACRIS does not have any other buildings constructed by him.

The first known occupant of the house was Alexander Ellis who was living here by the time of the 1930 Census. He and his wife Catherine shared the house with their three children, his sister and two servants. Alexander Ellis was 43 years old and worked in the insurance industry. The value of the house was stated to be \$50,000. By 1943 Alexander was deceased. Mrs. Ellis continued to live here until at least 1955.

The house has been owned by Carolyn Mugar since about 1985.

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