

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

47-77	Boston North	AZ	BLM.743
-------	-----------------	----	---------

Town/City: Belmont

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

Address: 95 Clifton Street

Historic Name:

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1820

Source: visual inspection

Style/Form: Federal

Architect/Builder: Hartwell Richardson & Driver
(1916 alterations)

Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1916 – interior alterations

1947 – porch enlarged and screened

1986 – rear addition

1993 – barn removed

Condition: good

Moved: no yes ? **Date:** ca. 1870

Acreage: 31,475 SF

Setting: older dwelling in 20th century residential neighborhood of large lots.

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

95 CLIFTON STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AZ

BLM.743

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 95 Clifton Street is significant as one of the oldest houses on Belmont Hill. The 2 ½-story, 5 x 1-bay dwelling is an example of the Federal style constructed ca. 1820 but likely also bears the imprint of Colonial Revival alterations in the early 20th century. The fact that it is set on a brick foundation seems to substantiate that it was moved (see Historical Narrative below).

Characteristic of the Federal style, the house displays shallow returns on the gable ends and a lunette window lights the south attic. Centered on the façade is a semi-elliptical recessed bay with paneled sidewalls and partial sidelights. Windows contain double-hung 6/6 sash with simple surrounds. Offset to the north of the main house block is a gable-roofed “Beverly jog”. The façade is just a single bay wide; fenestration on the north wall includes a tripartite window. A glazed sun porch fills the space between the main house and the offset jog. Behind the house is a 1 ½-story ell constructed in 1986 and displaying gable wall dormers.

According to Assessors’ records, the barn on the property was demolished in 1993. A low, unmortared stone wall runs along the front sidewalk. A gravel driveway extends in front of the house. The remainder of the property is largely wooded.

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 early history of this house is not known at this time. In the late 19th century the house was owned by J. Varnum Fletcher. J. Varnum Fletcher (1812-1899) was one of the original town Selectmen and was also a Library Trustee. He lived at 519 Pleasant Street; this and other houses including 86 Clifton Street (now 1 Fletcher Road; BLM.149) were part of his farm property. Fletcher was in the wholesale beef business in Boston. There is no house shown on this site on the 1875 Beer map which is curious given the fact that stylistically the house dates to the early 19th century. There is a house shown across the street at what is now 86 Clifton Street (1 Fletcher Road). Since that house dates to the 1870s, it is possible that the house at 95 Clifton was moved across the street in the 1870s to make way for the new house. The house at 95 Clifton Street does appear on both the 1889 and 1898 maps as being owned by J.V. Fletcher.

In 1915 Mr. and Mrs. Harold I. Brown were living here according to the Belmont directory. Mrs. Nellie Winnek purchased the house about 1916 and lived here into the 1930s. In 1916 she was granted a building permit by the Town of Belmont for \$5,000 worth of alterations including “general overhauling”, reshingling, the rebuilding of chimneys, two new fireplaces and the enlarging of the dining room and chambers. The architects for the renovations were noted Boston architects Hartwell, Richardson, and Driver.

In 1938 the house was purchased by James D. Dow, Jr. He was a lawyer and lived here with his wife Ruth. The 1940 Census indicates that she was a college secretary. Members of the Dow Family continue to own the house today.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

95 CLIFTON STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AZ	BLM.743
----	---------

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Beers, F.W. and Co. *County Atlas of Middlesex, Massachusetts*. New York: Beers, Ellis, & Soule, 1875.
- Belmont Directories, various years.
- 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.
- Flynn, Kay. Area form for Belmont Hill Company – Phase 1 (BLM.AZ), 1982
- Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA
- Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1915, 1922, 1931, 1949.
- Stadley, George W. *Atlas of the Towns of Watertown, Belmont, Arlington, and Lexington*. 1898.
- Town of Belmont, Building Department files.
- U.S. Census, various dates.
- Walker, G.H. *Atlas of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Boston: G.H. Walker, 1889.