

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

25-50	Boston North	AR	BLM.748
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Town/City: Belmont

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

Photograph



Address: 27 Clover Street

Historic Name: Herbert & Adaline Sherman House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1908

Source: building permit

Style/Form: English Revival/Arts & Crafts

Architect/Builder: Harvey Bailey Alden

Exterior Material:

Foundation: not visible

Wall/Trim: stucco, wood

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

2005 – rear addition, second façade entrance, new windows added to façade.

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 14,576 SF

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

Locus Map



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): November 2014

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

27 CLOVER 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 27 Clover Street is one of a grouping of stuccoed dwellings constructed in the Clark Hill neighborhood in the early 20th century. It shows the influence of various styles of the period including Queen Anne, Tudor Revival and Craftsman. The 2 ½-story dwelling has a dominant asymmetrical gable front behind which there is a hip-roofed core with cross gable projecting to the south. False half timbering decorates the entrance at the southwest corner and the south cross gable. Other Craftsman details include the projecting vergeboard, decorative rafter tails, exposed beam ends and finials. Original windows on the facade include the elongated multi-pane window next to the entrance and the 6/6 in the attic. The entrance porch at the north end of the facade is a recent addition as are the remaining facade windows. Windows on the lesser elevations include a mix of individual and paired double-hung units and a large bay window on the south side.

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.

This house is representative of the architect-designed houses built on Clark Hill in the early 20th century following the subdivision of the former Kilburn Estate by a locally-held real estate trust. John Kilburn had died in 1904 and in 1909 the estate of Amanda Kilburn sold the estate to the Belmont Associates (MCRD Book 3452, Page 228). The group of well-to-do residents including Frederic Dodge (who lived at 81 Clark Street), Henry O. Underwood, Joseph O. Wellington, John Frenning (who lived at 35 Clover Street), and Francis Kendall (who lived at 47 Clark Street). The land was subdivided into lots of about 10,000 square feet and Kilburn and Blake Street, named after the estate owners, were laid out through its center. The Associates placed a number of restrictions on new construction in their subdivision; the restrictions were to be in effect for twenty years. The deeds specified that houses were to be twenty feet from the street except for piazzas and porticos. Only single-family dwelling houses with pitched roofs were to be constructed and the minimum acceptable cost was \$5,500 above the foundation.

This home is one of the earliest houses constructed in the new subdivision. The land (Lot 3) was sold by the Associates to Herbert L. Sherman who was granted a building permit in April 1908. He was a chemist and lived here with his wife Adaline and two children. He graduated from MIT in 1902 and was employed briefly as assistant chemist for the Massachusetts State Board of Health. Sherman opened a lab in Boston in 1904 in consulting and analytical chemistry and made a specialty of the testing and inspection of structural materials, especially cement and concrete. By 1916 he had become recognized as the leading authority on tests and inspection of materials in New England. His company was responsible for nearly all the cement tests for the State of Massachusetts and was consulting chemist for the Boston & Albany Railroad (Bacon 1916). As a member of the American Concrete Institute, it was not surprising that he chose stucco for the exterior of his house. The Shermans lived here until 1938 when they moved to 37 Hillside Terrace.

The house at 27 Clover was owned by James Parkhill, Jr. and his wife Mary from 1938 until 1966. In 1940 James was 33 and worked as a district representative for a laundry. He lived here with his wife Mary, two young children, father, and a servant. The house was purchased by James and Margaret Hodder in 1966 and they continued to own the house until 2005 when it was purchased by the present owners.

The house was designed by Boston architect Harvey Bailey Alden whose other known works include several buildings in Chatham – the Brick Block (CHA.217), a 1 ½-story English Revival structure as well as the Chatham Bars Inn (CHA.215). He also designed a Masonic Building in Roslindale, the Masonic Apartments in Boston and houses on Irving Street in Cambridge.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Bacon, Edwin Monroe. *The Book of Boston: Fifty Years' Recollections of the New England Metropolis*. Boston: Book of Boston Company, 1916 [information on Herbert Sherman].
- 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.
- Clark Hill Promotional Brochure, no date. Belmont Historical Society.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission, MACRIS database.
- Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA
- Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1922, 1931, 1949.
- Town of Belmont, Building Department files.
- U.S. Census, various years.
- Williams, Judy. Area form for Clark Hill (BLM.AR), November 1982.



Undated (ca.1910?) Photo of 27 Clover Street from Clark Hill Promotional Brochure

Source: Belmont Historical Society

