

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

17-30-A	Boston North		BLM.751
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Town/City: Belmont

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Waverley

Address: 199 Common Street

Historic Name: First Church of Christ Scientist

Uses: Present: church

Original: church

Date of Construction: 1965

Source: *Belmont Citizen*, April 23, 1965

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Albert M. Kreider, architect;
Donald S. Tait, Inc., contractors

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: brick, wood

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
none

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 27,034 SF

Setting: residential neighborhood

Photograph



Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): October 2014

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

199 COMMON STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

BLM.751

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.

Located at the southwest corner of Common Street and Winthrop Road, the First Church of Christ Scientist is a mid 20th century Colonial Revival structure constructed of brick with wood trim including a pediment front with a distyle in antis (two columns between two piers) motif at the center as well as end pilasters supporting a full entablature with wide frieze. The flushboard pediment is pierced by a lunette window. The recessed entrance contains double paneled doors capped by a semicircular fanlight. The windows include double-hung 12/12 windows and a bowed picture window toward the front of the building with brick-framed panels above each. To the rear, lighting the sanctuary, there are taller, arched multi-light sash with rectangular basement windows visible on the north wall. Rising near the front of the asphalt-shingled gable, the steeple is set on a square base. Above this the lantern level is also square in plan with an arched multi-light window on each face and a surrounding balustrade with pinnacles and urns at the corners of the roof. The octagonal spire is set on an octagonal base punctuated by louvered rectangular openings.

The area in front of the church and to the north is heavily landscaped with a stone retaining wall running along the sidewalk. A driveway extends along the south of the building leading to a paved parking area.

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 Belmont Christian Scientist Society was organized in 1956 and prior to the construction of this church held services and testimony meetings in the Masonic Apartments at Belmont Center. The lot at the corner of Common Street and Winthrop Road was purchased in 1958 from the heirs of George Giles who had lived at 209 Common Street. The Colonial Revival Church was designed by Albert M. Kreider of Newton and Donald S. Tait, Inc. served as general contractors. Ground was broken in 1964. The church was in the process of construction for nearly a year and was dedicated on April 25, 1965. It seats approximately 200; the overall cost was about \$200,000.

Albert M. Kreider (1890-1966) was a graduate of the Boston Architectural Center. He worked for many well-respected firms including Brainerd & Leeds, and Cram & Ferguson before establishing his own practice in Newtonville in 1935. Other designs by Kreider include the Christ Lutheran Church at 597 Belmont Street in Belmont (BLM.731, 1949), Franklin School in West Newton, the Day School in Newtonville, and the Post Office in Newton Upper Falls, banks, residences, etc. This was one of his last commissions as Kreider died in 1966.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

AIA Historical Directory, 1946

Belmont Citizen, April 23, 1965

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

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA

Newton Public Buildings Survey, Franklin Elementary School, 125 Derby Street, 1938

<http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/43544> (information on Albert Kreider)

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