

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

31-38	Boston North	AR	BLM.118, BLM.313
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Town/City: Belmont

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Waverley

Address: 69 Common Street (aka 15 Clark St.)

Historic Name: All Saints' Episcopal Church

Uses: Present: religious

Original: religious

Date of Construction: 1897

Source: church history

Style/Form: Shingle Style

Architect/Builder: Rev. H.G. Wood , arch.; John Dodge, bldr. (1897); McLaughlin & Burr, arch.; Samuel Alcock, bldr. (1941); Francis Durfee Johnson, arch.; Donald Tait, bldr.(1954); Samuel Crabtree, arch.; Hans Tobiasson, bldr. (1959)

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood shingles, stone, stucco

Roof: slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Rectory (65 Common Street, 1922, BLM.313)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1941 – parish house (Brewster Hall)

1954 – addition to north doubles nave

1959 – Bramhall add. & Sunday School Rooms

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreeage: 29,380 SF

Setting: large corner lot on busy street, opposite the Underwood Estate

Photograph



Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): July 2014

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BELMONT

69 COMMON STREET

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BLM.118

 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 northwest corner of Common Street and Clark Street, All Saints' Episcopal Church is a good example of late 19th century Shingle Style ecclesiastical architecture which was subsequently expanded in the mid-20th century to meet the needs of a growing congregation. The original church displays wood shingled walls above a high foundation of rough-faced granite ashlar blocks. The church is capped by a steeply pitched slate roof. The pointed arch windows are capped by hood molds and contain leaded glass. The original church extends from the polygonal apse at the south (Clark Street) end to the crenelated stone tower to the north. The main entrance was historically located at the base of the tower but this was later converted to a window.

The section to the north of the tower was added in 1954 and doubled the size of the building in a very sensitive way, repeating the design vocabulary of the original including wood shingled walls, a slate roof, stone foundation and pointed arch windows. At the north end of the addition there is a Gothic Revival gabled entrance vestibule with a pointed arch surround containing double doors topped by a leaded glass transom. The gable is filled with ornate wooden tracery and framed by crockets.

A parish house was constructed west of the church in 1941. It is single-story in height, sheathed in wood shingles with board and batten filling the gable facing Clark Street. The 1941 addition is also set on a stone foundation and is capped by an asphalt-shingled roof with a brick chimney. The gabled English Revival-inspired entrance vestibule has chamfered posts above a shingled base. Windows consist of 8/8 and 6/6 double-hung units. In 1959 a two-story, flat-roofed addition was constructed between the parish hall and the single-story section west of the sanctuary. The 1959 addition is sheathed in wood shingles above a concrete foundation and has tripartite modern windows.

To the north of the church, the rectory at 65 Common Street (BLM.313) is a 1 ½-story Cape Cod dwelling constructed in 1922 as a private dwelling. It is sheathed in wood shingles above a concrete foundation with a one-car garage underneath. There are three hip-roofed dormers on the front roof slope, double-hung windows and a pedimented entrance porch with Doric columns and sidelights flanking the door. Across the street at 14 Clark Street (see BLM.742) is another former rectory that was built for the church in 1920 according to designs by H. Thaxter Underwood. It was sold by the church in 2006.

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.

All Saints' Episcopal Church was the first church of this denomination to be established in Belmont. A group of local residents first gathered in the home of H.A. Scranton at 37 Burnham Street on Good Friday in 1886 for a service led by Rev. Edward Rand of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Watertown. For the first few years, services were held in the homes of local residents and as the number of participants grew, in the Town Hall and other larger halls. The members officially organized on April 13, 1891 and Rev. Rand became the rector. By November 17, 1893 the parish had purchased a lot of land on the corner of Common and Clark Streets from Sarah G. Clark.

The church was designed by Rev. Hermon Gaylord Wood (1831-1913) rector of the Episcopal Church at Beachmont, Winthrop. By this time Rev. Wood had designed a number of Episcopal churches according to the same basic design. These include St. John's Church in Winthrop (1889), St. John's Church in Athol (ATH.112, 1890), St. Andrew's Church in Ayer (AYE.202, 1892), Emmanuel Church in West Roxbury (BOS.10723, 1893), and St. Peter's Church in Jamaica Plain (1894). Rev. Wood also designed a series of smaller fieldstone church buildings in the Gothic style including St. Anne's in Billerica (1889), St. Mark's in Foxboro (FOX.101, 1893), St. George's in Maynard (1895), Trinity Church in Canton (CAN.86, 1897), and St. Paul's Church in

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Hopkinton (HPK.595, 1898). He had no formal architectural training however this was a time of great expansion within the diocese.

The cornerstone for the church was laid on October 2, 1896 and the first service was held on April 27, 1897. In 1941 a large parish hall was added behind the church, on Clark Street. It was designed by G. Houston Burr of the firm of McLaughlin and Burr and constructed by local builder and parishioner Samuel Alcock. The cost of construction was \$27,000 and it was named Brewster hall in honor of Rev. William Brewster, rector from 1939 to 1942. The building included seating for 300, a smaller hall, Sunday School rooms, a kitchen and parish office and it was connected to the church by a covered passageway. Architects James McLaughlin and G. Houston Burr had formed their partnership in 1920 and remained active into the 1950s. Other Belmont buildings built according to their designs include Wellington High School (1917), Chenery Middle School (1924) and the house at 259 Somerset Street (1935).

In 1954 the church was doubled in size, increasing its capacity from 250 to 450 persons. The addition was designed by architect and Belmont resident Francis Durfee Johnson (1899-1958) who was also a parishioner. The Donald S. Tait Company served as contractor for the \$42,000 project. As part of the project the former entrance at the base of the stone tower was converted to a window and a new entrance porch was constructed at the north end of the addition. In the mid-1950s the church was given a 75-car parking lot across Clark Street from the church by the Davis-Underwood family.

In 1959 another addition to the west of the original church added Sunday School rooms and connected the church to the parish house. Parishioner Samuel Crabtree was the architect (Crabtree and Young) and Hans Tobiason was the contractor for the \$58,000 addition.

In 1961 the church purchased the house next door at 65 Common Street for use as a rectory. It had been built in 1922 as a single family dwelling for Francis and Lilly Kendall. H. Thaxter Underwood was the original architect. The rectory at 14 Clark Street (BLM.742) was sold by the church in 2006.

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Aerial view looking north showing Parish Hall Addition at left, 1959 Classroom addition and church to right. Rectory is building in upper left corner.

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1954 Addition (extension of nave)



1941 Parish Hall Addition

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Rectory at 65 Common Street (BLM.313)