

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

20-2	Boston North		BLM.757
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Town/City: Belmont

Place: (neighborhood or village):

Photograph



Address: 106 Concord Avenue

Historic Name: Dr. Norman Nesbitt Dental Office

Uses: Present: office

Original: office

Date of Construction: 1930

Source: building permit

Style/Form: Georgian Revival

Architect/Builder: H. Thaxter Underwood, architect

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: brick, stone

Roof: tar & gravel, rubber

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (with dates):
1992 – front addition

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 6,008 SF

Setting: mixed uses along busy thoroughfare

Locus Map



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (month/year): October 2014

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

106 CONCORD AVENUE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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.

Behind the box-like 1992 addition that fronts the sidewalk, 106 Concord Avenue is an unusual example of a brick Georgian Revival office designed by local architect H. Thaxter Underwood in 1930. The original single-story, flat-roofed structure incorporates a number of Colonial features including a molded watertable and a semi-elliptical arched and recessed entrance at the center of the five bay west façade. The rectangular window openings contain wooden, double-hung 12/12 sash with brick lintels and stone sills and are topped by horizontal stone/concrete panels. A molded stone cornice wraps around the entire building and above this is a brick parapet. Iron anchors mounted to the parapet above the main entrance suggest that there was originally some type of canopy sheltering the doorway. On the street façade the parapet incorporates a stone band that at one time may have been contained an inscription. The remainder of the north façade is no longer visible due to the later addition and its original appearance is not known.

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 building was constructed in 1930 as an office for Dr. Norman Beverly Nesbett (1877-?), a dentist. Dr. Nesbett, who lived at 35 Stone Road in Belmont, was educated at Harvard and was well published in various dental journals. Today, at Harvard Dental School, the Dr. Norman B. Nesbett Medal is given to the graduate student who has shown excellence in the field of clinical dentistry.

Dr. Nesbett purchased the land in 1930 from John F. Dolan. It was Lot 76 on the 1925 Plan of the Bright and Richardson Lands and until that time was farmland. The original Colonial Revival building measured 42' x 51' and was designed by local architect H. Thaxter Underwood. The cost of the building was \$25,000 which, given the fact that the building was constructed shortly after the Great Depression, was a sizable amount. Samuel Alcord was the builder.

In 1949 Dr. Nesbett sold the property to Richard D. Brew of Natick who operated an optical laboratory here although directories indicate that Dr. Nesbett was still practicing dentistry here also. In 1954 Kenneth A. Dawson (1903-1989) purchased the building. The Kenneth A. Dawson Company specialized in microscopes and audiovisual equipment.

The present owners purchased the property in 1992 and the front addition was constructed at that time. The building currently houses an insurance agency.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Ancestry.com

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

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

Town of Belmont building permits.

U.S. Census, various dates.