

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

57-21	Boston North	AX	BLM.136
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Town/City: Belmont

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

Address: 567 Concord Avenue

Historic Name: Edwin F. Atkins, Jr. House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1918

Source: building permit

Style/Form: Georgian Revival

Architect/Builder: Henry Richardson Shepley

Exterior Material:

Foundation: not visible

Wall/Trim: brick

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

greenhouse, shed, pool

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1973 – rear addition including attached garage,
demolition of sunporch and greenhouse

1991 – stable demolished

2000 – new windows

2010 – subdivision of land for new houses

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

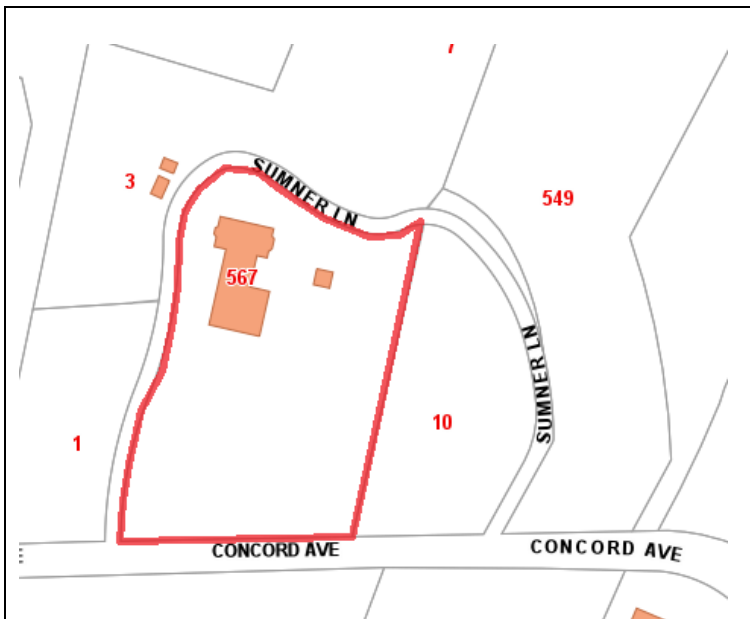
Acreage: 71,967 SF

Setting: setback from road with open lawn and stone
walls along road, new houses adjacent

Photograph



Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): April 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

567 CONCORD AVENUE

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.

Constructed in 1918, the Atkins House at 567 Concord Avenue is a significant example of an early 20th century Georgian Revival mansion, designed by Boston architect Henry Richardson Shepley. The 2 ½-story brick house displays a characteristic five bay south façade with brick quoins and a string course. The west elevation is also five bays wide with a second entrance facing the drive. The house is capped by a high hipped, slate-covered roof with rebuilt balustrade, pedimented dormers, double end chimneys and modillions at the eaves. The center entrance is framed by a Classically-inspired surround with Ionic pilasters and pediments. The double-hung 6/6 replacement windows are set into segmental arched openings. The façade is fronted by a balustrade terrace.

The former estate-like presence of the house has recently been diminished by the subdivision of the property for new houses although it retains its open spacious front lawn and granite stone wall along Concord Avenue. A swimming pool (1992) is located to the east of the house.

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 was constructed on the site of Henry M. Clarke's "Holiday Farm", a mid 19th century Italian villa. The present house was built in 1918 for Edwin F. Atkins, Jr. and his wife, the former Mary Shepley Coolidge. Edwin F. Atkins, Jr. (1892-1923) graduated from Harvard in 1915 and the following year married his wife. The house was built shortly thereafter. Mary Atkins had familial ties to a number of important architects of the day. Her father was Boston architect Charles A. Coolidge, who married the elder sister of his business partner, George Shepley. George Shepley married the daughter of preeminent Boston architect H.H. Richardson. The house at 567 Concord Avenue was designed by George Shepley's son, Henry Richardson Shepley, who was also a grandson of preeminent Boston architect H.H. Richardson. Henry Richardson Shepley (1887-1962) attended Harvard and the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. He later became head of the firm of Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge, successor firm of H.H. Richardson.

After graduating from Harvard, Edwin F. Atkins, Jr. joined the family business (Atkins Company) of sugar dealers. At the time of the 1920 Census, Edwin and Mary were living at 567 Concord Avenue with two young sons and a servant. On January 13, 1923 Edwin and Mary Atkins and their two sons were on a seaplane flying from Key West to Havana when the plane fell into the Gulf, killing Edwin, the two sons and a governess. Mary Atkins survived along with four others. After the accident, Mrs. Atkins returned to Belmont and continued to live in this house several years. In 1927 she married banker Gordon Rentschler and moved to New York City. The Belmont house was occupied in the 1930s and 1940s by her brother, Charles A. Coolidge and his wife Allison. Coolidge was a lawyer in Boston. In 1956 Allison Coolidge conveyed the house to John and Katharine (Clafin) Weeks (Book 8825, Page 352). (Katherine's mother, Helen, was an Atkins). The house was owned by David and Martha Mugar from 1973 to 1992. In 1973 the house was remodeled, a sunporch and greenhouse were removed and an additional two-car attached garage was constructed, designed by Moreshouse & Chesley architects of Lexington. In 1991 the mid 19th century stable building that remained from Holiday Farm was demolished. Joseph and Paula Crugnale purchased the property in 1992 (Book 22368, Page 54). In 2010 the original property was subdivided by Joseph Crugnale. Summer Lane was laid out and several large new residences were constructed in 2014 on the new lots.

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Driveway Entrance on Concord Avenue