

FORM B – BUILDING

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

62-37

Boston
North

A,AY

BLM.141

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

Photograph**Town/City:** Belmont**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):
Wellington Hills (Belmont Hill)**Address:** 660 Concord Avenue**Historic Name:**

Uses: Present: single family dwelling
 Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1810**Source:** visual inspection**Style/Form:** Federal (altered)**Architect/Builder:** unknown**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: not visible

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingle

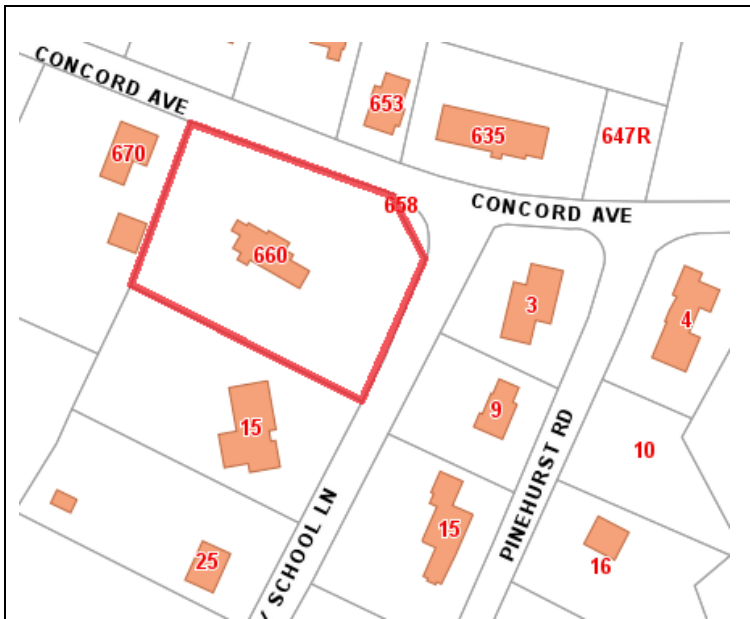
Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
garage (1996)**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

1933, 1936 & 1940 - additions

1984 – dormer, greenhouse, screen porch, solar panels

1988 – second story added at rear

1994 – rebuilt front entrance

Condition: good**Moved:** no yes ? **Date:** 1951**Acreage:** 27,819 SF**Setting:** corner lot, screened from road**Locus Map** (north at top)**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf**Organization:** Belmont Historic District Commission**Date** (*month / year*): Dec. 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

660 CONCORD AVENUE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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 660 Concord Avenue is an early 19th century dwelling which saw a number of additions and alterations in the late 20th century. The original two-story, three bay "half house" is simple with eaves that overhang slightly. Until 1994 the sidehall entrance was capped by a fanlight and fronted by an archway. The present entrance is sheltered by a hip roof on square posts. Windows contain double-hung 2/2 sash and the tops of the second floor windows extend to the eaves. A two-story wing is offset to the west. It appears on historic maps but may have been rebuilt as the windows appear to be modern. A single-story wing extends to the east and the rear second story addition was added in 1988. Solar panels, a dormer, greenhouse, and screened porch all date to 1984.

The house is set back on a low knoll. A rough stone wall with trees runs along the road.

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.

[Note: The previous 1982 inventory form refers to this as the W.F. Homer House but that is erroneous.]

The 1807 opening of the Concord Turnpike created a direct link with Cambridge and Boston running in an east-west direction from Cambridge across Pequotset Plain and directly over Highlands to Beaver Brook. This house was likely built shortly after the turnpike opened.

Additional deed research is needed to determine the original owner of the house. In 1862 the property was sold by Joseph O. Wellington (1813-1876), a farmer, to Michael Carney (Book 896, Page 375). Little information was found concerning Michael Carney. The house is barely a speck on the 1889 map and is labelled "Carney". The 1898 map indicates that the property was then owned by the Heirs of Michael Carney. After his death, the house was occupied by his widow Rose and daughter Mary. Rose was born in Ireland in 1845 and immigrated about 1860. In 1900 Mary was working as a dressmaker but by 1910 she was operating a grocery store at 212 Waverly.

In 1926 Mary A. Carney sold the property to Morison Blake of Cambridge (Book 5012, Page 116). At the time Blake was a young mechanical engineer. A few years later he moved to Philadelphia and in 1931 sold the house to William Yandell Elliott of Cambridge (Book 5547, Page 499).

William Yandell Elliott (1896-1979) joined the Harvard Faculty in 1925. Dr. Elliott was a professor of Government and Political Science as well as a governmental adviser and administrator. During World War II he was a consultant for the United States Defense Program and worked on the problems of economic reconstruction in Europe after the war, meeting with numerous heads of state including Josef Stalin (Robbins: 109).

The Elliotts made a number of additions to the house over the years. These included a rear sunporch (1931); a 45' x 24' addition for a playroom (1933); a 20' x 20' two-car garage (1936); and a single-story 10' x 12' addition to the west designed by Nelson Chase, architect (1940). Building Department files also mention Prof. Elliott moving and relocating a house in 1951 although the meaning is not clear. It was also during the Elliotts' ownership that Day School Lane was laid out in 1957. The land behind the house was subdivided into four lots and the size of the original house lot was reduced from over three acres to 0.63 acre (Betts: 279).

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The property was sold by Elliott in 1973 (Book 12470, Page 728). Wilmot and Joan Hastings were the owners from 1973 to 1988. During their ownership a rear second story was added as well as solar panels, a dormer, greenhouse, and screen porch (1984). The property was owned by Samuel Knight, Jr., an attorney, from 1988 to 2012.

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