

FORM B – BUILDING

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

63-7	Boston North	AY	BLM.142
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town/City: Belmont

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

Photograph



Address: 741 Concord Avenue

Historic Name: Highland Stock Farm Farmhouse

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: farmhouse

Date of Construction: ca. 1850 (by 1875)

Source: maps, deeds

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: John Radford Abbot, arch. (1950)

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

garage (1946/1950), shed (1998)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1949 - living room extended, new dormer, new chimney
1950 - ell roof raised, two dormers, 12' x 13' addition

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 49,415 SF

Setting: screened from road by fence and vegetation

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

741 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.

Screened from the road, 741 Concord Avenue is a 1 ½-story Greek Revival style farmhouse altered in the mid to late 20th century by additions. Typical of the Greek Revival, the house displays a pediment front and full entablature. A recessed porch occupies the southwest corner; transom and side lights frame the entrance. Windows contain 6/6 sash. The dormers were added in 1946 and 1950. The ell was originally a single story in height but was expanded by raising the roof in 1950.

To the west of the house is a two-car garage constructed to hold one car in 1946 and subsequently expanded in 1950. Originally the parcel included a stable, hen house and tool house. These were removed in 1946.

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 is the only building which survives from the Highland Stock Farm, developed and owned by Winthrop Ward Chenery in the mid 19th century. It was constructed ca. 1850 and is shown on the 1875 map. W.W. Chenery (1819-1876) was a prosperous Boston merchant and partner in Phelps and Company, West India importers. He owned a house on a twenty-acre tract of Walnut Hill but established the Stock Farm about a mile from there to pursue other interests. The farm included land on both sides of Concord Avenue. Here he raised and bred horses, cattle and sheep with most of the farm buildings located on the south side of the road. In 1852 he imported the first of eight cows from Holland. In 1861 after an outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia among his stock, he attempted to again import and breed the black-and-white cows which he called Holsteins. The breed proved to be excellent milk producers and Chenery is credited with the first permanent introduction of the breed to this country. In 1868 Chenery also built a one-half mile race track on the north side of Concord Avenue, west of Somerset Street for his thoroughbred race horses. W.W. Chenery died in 1876. His son, Winthrop L. Chenery, did not continue his father's cattle and horse breeding. He sold the Highland Stock Farm in 1885 to Ernest Crawford, a New Hampshire manufacturer, who used it for raising and breeding trotters. The 1889 Map shows J.J. and E.J. Crawford as owning what is now 741 Concord Avenue as well as the racetrack and farm buildings south of Concord Avenue. In 1894 it was sold to William H. Summer.

In 1906 Highland Stock Farm was sold to H.O. Underwood and Edwin F. Atkins. The portion of the farm south of Concord Avenue was conveyed to McLean Hospital. The house at 741 Concord Avenue was rented for many years to David Lysander Thomas, who was a wagon driver and handled saddle horses. Thomas was born in Canada about 1861 and immigrated to this country about 1892. By 1907 he was living here with his wife Charlotte and family. He was still occupying the house in 1944. Thomas apparently vacated the house soon after as in 1946 Mrs. William (Helen) Clafin applied for several building permits to make improvements to the house. In 1946 the stable, hen house and tool house on the property were demolished and the living room was extended by a 6' x 17' addition. A new dormer and new chimney were also constructed, as was a one car garage.

In 1950 additional improvements were made, designed by architect John Radford Abbot (1893-1985). These included expanding the garage to hold two cars, raising the existing roof of the ell, installing two rooms and building a 12' x 13' addition as well as adding two dormers. By 1960 the house was owned by Theodore and Barbara Ames. A 14' x 6' section was added to the kitchen at the rear in 1986. The property was sold by Linda Porter Ames to Gary and Mary Pforzheimer in 2000. It is still owned by the family today.

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