

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

49-10

Boston
North

AZ

BLM.144

Town/City: Belmont

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

Address: 8 Fieldmont Road

Historic Name: Clarence Smith House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1928

Source: building permit

Style/Form: Tudor Revival

Architect/Builder: John W. Richardson, arch./bldr.

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: brick, stucco, wood

Roof: slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
garage (1929)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

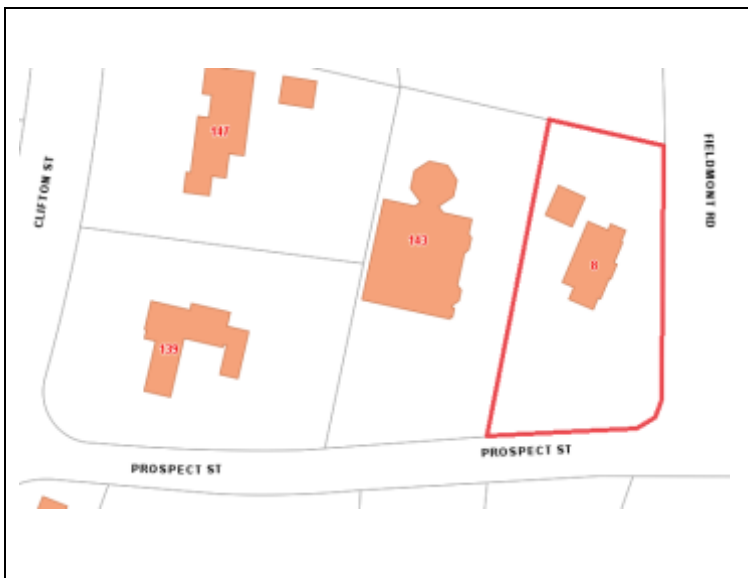
Acreage: 29,769 SF

Setting: large landscaped corner lot

Photograph



Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): July 2014

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

8 FIELDMONT ROAD

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.

The house at 8 Fieldmont Road is a good example of the later phase of Tudor Revival architecture which found great popularity in Belmont and other Boston suburbs in the 1920s and 1930s. The unusual, nearly symmetrical design freely mixes elements of English Revival architecture and combines them in a modern way. Set on a low knoll above the street, the effect is quite stately. The 2 ½-story house has a rustic clinker brick exterior with two large second story gable bays and smaller dormers displaying decorative half timbering and decorative rakings. The house is capped by a hip roof covered in polychromatic slate and the slope extends on both side elevations to enclose a first floor porch. Centered on the façade, the gabled brick vestibule has a vergeboard with finial. A Renaissance-inspired, stone-quoined door surround frames the vertical board door with large iron hinges that is set in a Tudor arch opening. Instead of casements, all of the window openings contain multiple double-hung 6/6 windows.

Behind the house there is a brick garage with slate roof and two garage openings on the north elevation. Building permits indicate that it was constructed in 1929.

The house retains a high degree of integrity and has seen few alterations since its construction.

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.

The house at 8 Fieldmont Road was constructed as part of the first phase of development of the Belmont Hill Company. In 1918 Henry O. Underwood formed the Company with other prominent local residents. They bought land on Belmont Hill with a goal of developing it slowly, in the way they thought was in the best interest of the town. The homes in this area were constructed between 1920 and 1932 on large lots ranging from ¾ to 3 acres, laid out by Loring Underwood, Landscape Designer.

This land (Lot 42) was sold to John W. Richardson. The 1928 building permit indicates that Richardson was the owner, architect, and builder. Further research suggests that Richardson was one of almost twenty house builders based in Belmont during this period of rapid growth. Richardson lived in a more modest house at 86 Alexander Avenue. Richardson probably got the design for the house from a publication or book of house designs. There is no indication that he ever lived here. The first known owner/occupant was Clarence S. Smith, a bonds salesman who lived here with his wife Janet in the early 1930s. Directories indicate that William Byrnes was living here from at least 1939 to 1955. He was a salesman and lived here with his wife Margaret. The house was later owned by Kevin V. Boyle, political activist and advisor, and sold by his estate to the present owners in 1994.

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