

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

58-16	Boston North	AW	BLM. 131 BLM.314
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Town/City: Belmont

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

Address: 41 Hay Road

Historic Name: Nelson Chase House and Studio

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling and studio

Date of Construction: 1925

Source: deeds

Style/Form: Rustic/English Revival

Architect/Builder: Nelson Chase

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete block

Wall/Trim: wood shingles

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

studio (BLM.314)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

2003- small rear addition

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 20,093 SF

Setting: wooded hillside

Photograph



Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): November 2015

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

41 HAY ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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BLM.131
BLM.314

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.

Set on a wooded hillside, 41 Hay Road is a unique early 20th century dwelling (BLM.131) designed by local architect and artist Nelson Chase. A short distance north of the house is a small studio (BLM.314) also designed and built by Chase for his own use. The house is a side-gabled 1 ½-story cottage set on a concrete basement with rough stone quoins around the basement window openings and adjacent doorway containing a wooden door with strap hinges. The walls of the house are sheathed in wood shingles. The asymmetrical gable roof was originally clad in slate shingles (now asphalt) and has a long shed dormer facing the road. Windows include a mix of double-hung 6/6 sash and casements as well as modern units. Spanning the rear is a shed roofed addition dating to 2003.

The informal landscaping includes a set of stone stairs that climb up the hill and a trellis located directly in front of the house. The trellis' original Doric columns have been replaced by simple posts. Behind the house is a stone patio with concrete garden wall and small fountain. To the north of the house, the former studio is a small, gable-roofed structure clad in wood clapboards above a fieldstone base. Nelson Chase was given a building permit in 1931 for a two-car garage. It is not clear if that refers to this structure. There is a small lean-to on one side and an exterior brick chimney. Windows on the studio contain 6/6 sash and small paned casements. There is an arched doorway on the main level and a lower level basement entry.

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.

Hay Road received its name as it was originally a switchback leading from Pleasant Street to the hay fields and orchard of the Mack Estate. The road was formally laid out in 1925 (Betts: 161). Nelson Chase purchased a lot measuring approximately an acre from Maria Robbins in 1925 and built the present house for his own use (Book 4858, Page 584). He later sold part of the land to Irving Ginsburg in 1941. Chase was an architect and artist and used natural materials and architectural fragments from houses that were being torn down in the area at the time.

Nelson Chauncy Chase (1893-1987) was born in Lowell and educated at MIT. He was an instructor at MIT in the 1920s and early 1930s. By 1934 he had opened a Studio Shop at 65 Leonard Street in Belmont. In addition to his own house, Chase designed several English-inspired homes on Belmont Hill including 127 Somerset Street (1939). Chase is best known as an artist. Among his works are murals in the Claflin Room of the Belmont Public Library depicting early life in the community.

Nelson Chase died in 1987 and the following year the property was sold by his estate to Kathleen Summerall. It was later conveyed to Jennie Summerall who owned it until 2015.

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<https://www.redfin.com/MA/Belmont/41-Hay-Rd-02478/home/8454752> [accessed November 2015]



House (BLM.131) with Studio (BLM.314) at right

Source: <https://www.redfin.com/MA/Belmont/41-Hay-Rd-02478/home/8454752> [accessed November 2015]

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Studio (BLM.314)

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