

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

18-175	Boston North	O	BLM.379
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**Town/City:** Belmont

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

**Address:** 89 Hillcrest Road

**Historic Name:** Herbert & Martha Magoun House

**Uses:** Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** 1922

**Source:** Building Permit

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival/Craftsman

**Architect/Builder:** Herbert Magoun, designer

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: stucco/wood

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
none

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

2004 – rear second floor addition

**Condition:** good

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

**Acreage:** 11,083 SF

**Setting:** corner lot in early 20<sup>th</sup> century neighborhood

## Photograph



## Locus Map (north at top)



**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Belmont Historic District Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): December 2015

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

89 HILLCREST ROAD

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.*

Set above street level at the corner of Hillcrest Road and Goden Street, 89 Hillcrest Road is a distinctive and well-preserved early 20<sup>th</sup> century Craftsman style house, reportedly designed by its original owner who was not a professional architect. The side-gabled 1 ½-story home has a stuccoed exterior and is capped by a low gable roof with projecting eaves with notched rakeboards. The lateral eaves on the façade are supported by five triangular knee braces and the broad gable ends have simple King post trusses. A smaller truss is used on the west porch. A long shed dormer projects from the front roof slope. The east half of the façade consists of a recessed porch with wide arched bays and a simple stick balustrade spanning each opening. The predominant window is a double-hung 6/1 sash set into a molded surround.

The setting of the house is enhanced by a poured concrete retaining wall that runs along the Hillcrest frontage with brick and cement stairs leading uphill to the front entry. A cut in the hill on the east side allows for a single-car garage set under 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 lot of land (lot 11) was sold by George W. Chenery to Martha Magoun, wife of Herbert W. Magoun of Cambridge in May 1922 (Book 4518, Page 79). That same year a building permit was issued to Mrs. Magoun. The couple previously lived in Cambridge and this was apparently their retirement home.

Herbert William Magoun (1856-1956) was an author and educator. He was born in Maine and received Bachelors and Masters degrees from Iowa (later Grinnell) College and a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in 1890. He specialized in Greek and Latin studies. He was a man of many talents and interests – an editor, an author, a gardener, he served as president of the Massachusetts College of Osteopathy from 1921 until 1926, and designed and built this house with two carpenters and his two sons at the age of 66. His wife, Martha (Mann) Magoun was a graduate of Wellesley College. She was an instructor of botany at Wellesley and a professor of biology at Colorado College before her 1892 marriage. The Magouns lived here for more than thirty years. Dr. Magoun was within a month of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday when he died in 1956. The house was sold by their son F. Alexander Magoun in 1956 to Waldo and Beverly Clark (8734, Page 389).

Joseph and Lise Stein purchased the house in 1959. Joseph Stein was a cellist and the couple shared their love for chamber music by hosting concerts in their home. After Mr. Stein's death in 1974, the Belmont Music School (now the Powers Music School) established the Stein Chamber Music Festival in his memory. Held every year, the Festival now also honors Lise Stein, who passed away in 2007. The Stein family sold the house in 1992 to June Kinoshita (Book 22502, Page 15). Robert Rifkin and Jane Levin purchased the house in 2003.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

*Belmont Historical Society Newsletter*, December 2015.

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Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA

Robbins, Samuel Dowse. *Who's Who in Belmont*. Belmont: 1972.

Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1915, 1922, 1931, 1949.

Town of Belmont, Building Department Records

U.S. Census, various dates.