

# 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	B	BLM.770
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**Town/City:** Belmont

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Payson Park

## Photograph



**Address:** 35 Hillside Terrace

**Historic Name:** William A. Johnston House

**Uses:** Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1900

**Source:** maps, directories

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival/Queen Anne

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: fieldstone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
garage (1916)

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

**Condition:** good

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

**Acreage:** 17,525 SF

**Setting:** hilltop residential neighborhood of houses ranging from early to later 20<sup>th</sup> century

## Locus Map (north at top)



**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Belmont Historic District Commission

**Date** (*month/year*): May 2016

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

35 HILLSIDE TERRACE

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 35 Hillside Terrace is a typical and largely unaltered Colonial Revival/Queen Anne design of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century which freely mixes elements from both. The two-story clapboarded dwelling is capped by a hip roof and lacks the critical symmetry which is central to Colonial prototypes. Details which originated in the Colonial vocabulary include the modillion cornice, dentil course on the porch, pilasters flanking the front door, Chippendale balustrade on the porch roof and oval window on the north elevation. The mix of windows including bay and oriel windows, arched window on the north wall and double-hung windows with 6/1 sash are a Queen Anne design feature.

A paved driveway extends along the north side of the house, terminating at a hip-roofed single car garage which was constructed in 1916.

## 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.*

Hillside Terrace was the eastern edge of the subdivision laid out by the Payson Park Land company in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. This property constituted Lots 117 and 118 of that subdivision. There was no building here at the time of the 1898 Stadley map. The street was laid out in 1903. The earliest known owner was William A. Johnston who was living at 35 Hillside Terrace at the time of the 1909 directory (at the time of the 1907 directory he was living at 40 Concord Avenue). William Atkinson Johnston (1868-1937) was a mechanical engineer who graduated from MIT in 1892. He was a professor of theoretical and applied mechanics at MIT beginning in the 1890s and until 1933 when he became professor emeritus. He died in 1937. In 1939 the property was sold by his widow, Edith Johnston to Charles Trenholm of Arlington (Book 6352, Page 512).

Charles Trenholm (1889-1954) who along with August Johnson, formed the Belmont Hill Village Trust and developed considerable housing in Belmont in the 1930s and 1940s, lived here for several years before selling the house to Helen Sullivan in 1948. The house was owned by Albert and Althea Ullman from 1955 to 1972. Albert Ullman was a professor of sociology at Tufts University focused on alcoholism, addiction, and social psychology. The house was purchased by Robert and Sarah LeVine in 1977 and is still owned by them today.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Ancestry.com

Belmont Directories, various years.

Betts, Richard B. *The Streets of Belmont and How they Were Named* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Belmont: Belmont Historical Society, 2012.

*Boston Globe*, August 9, 1937 [obituary of William A. Johnston]

Massachusetts Historical Commission. MACRIS database.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA

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

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

Stadley, George W. *Atlas of the Towns of Watertown, Belmont, Arlington, and Lexington*. 1898.

Town of Belmont, Building Department files.

U.S. Census, various years.