

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

55-35	Boston North	BB	BLM.776
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**Town/City:** Belmont

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

**Address:** 105 Juniper Road

**Historic Name:** Theodore T. Miller House

**Uses:** Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** 1936

**Source:** building permit

**Style/Form:** International Style/Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Eleanor Raymond, architect

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: horizontal flush boards, wood

Roof: tar & gravel

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
none

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

**Condition:** good

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

**Acreage:** 0.61 acre (26,781 SF)

**Setting:** set close to street in mixed 20<sup>th</sup> century neighborhood with backyard shaded by large trees

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Belmont Historic District Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): November 2014

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

105 JUNIPER 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 close to the street on a curve in the road, 105 Juniper Road is a two-story, flat-roofed structure which presents its more modest two-story facade to the street with a more expansive three-level elevation visible only from the rear of the sloping lot. Constructed in 1936, the house combines allusions to the Colonial Revival with box-like volumes of the International Style. The two-story street facade is sheathed in horizontal boards and displays three bays which are articulated by simple pilasters with a wide horizontal molding running above the first floor windows and a wide cornice and frieze above the second floor windows, just below the slightly-projecting eaves. The central horizontal molding is repeated in the face of the single-story, central bay projecting porch which is supported at each end by a pair of metal pipes connected by metal mesh in a diamond pattern. Underneath the porch, the off-center entrance is flanked by full length louvered shutters. The rectangular window openings contain double-hung windows with 2/2 sash and transoms on the first floor and 4/4 windows on the second floor; all are flanked by louvered shutters. All of the windows are individual except for a pair of windows above the porch.

A single-story portico is located to the north of the main house block and a two-car, flat-roofed garage is attached to the south. The cornice of the garage is a continuation of the horizontal band marking the center of the house.

The rear elevation of the main house continues the three-bay division of the facade but is enlivened by box-like projections which support a terrace and contain a sunroom. A Colonial-inspired balustrade alternating solid panels and geometric lattice tops the roof and the two-story sunroom projecting from the north third of the rear elevation. The fenestration on the rear elevation is a mix of double-hung windows on the upper floor with more expansive plate glass windows more in keeping with the International style.

Mortared stonewalls at the base of the house edge the backyard which is now shaded by large mature trees.

The Miller House is one of several Belmont houses designed by prominent architect Eleanor Raymond. The most notable, the Rachel Raymond House (12 Park Avenue, 1931, BLM.238) was an International Style structure constructed of wood flushboard and demolished in 2006. Though cloaked in Colonial Revival details, the Miller House shares several similarities with the International Style Raymond House including its flat-roofed profile, the contrast between the lower front/drive facade and the rear/garden facade, the use of cedar matched horizontal boards and expansive glass, balconies and decks to establish continuity between exterior and interior space. Taken alone, the Miller House is an unusual example of Colonial Revival architecture which contrasts with the town's numerous examples of clapboarded and brick Georgian Revival dwellings.

Other later projects by Raymond in Belmont include the Whiting House at 28 Tyler Road (1950) and the McCreary House at 54 Kenmore Road (1956). An additional Raymond commission - the Meyer House at 240 Somerset Street (1956) - was demolished in 2010.

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## 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.*

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century this land was part of a larger parcel which extended from Somerset Street to Fletcher Road and was owned by Henry Hornblower. In 1928 the Hornblower Trustees petitioned the Board of Survey for a new road, the present Juniper Road, with 14 lots on the east side of the new street ranging from 20,000 to 50,000 square feet. The so-called Juniper Hill subdivision was laid out by the Olmsted Brothers of Brookline; Aspinwall & Lincoln were the engineers.

This house was constructed in 1936 for Theodore T. Miller of Cambridge who purchased the land from the Hornblower Trustees that year. A building permit was filed in July 1936 and Eleanor Raymond is listed as the architect. Bernard Eckberg of Winchester was the contractor. At the time of the 1940 Census Theodore T. Miller was living here with his wife Janet, a butler and a maid.

Theodore T. Miller (1901-1995) was an innovator of plastics chemistry. He was born in Orange, New Jersey and attended MIT, graduating in 1922. He was hired by Dewey and Almy, a Cambridge chemical company after graduation and served in various U.S. and European posts for the firm. In 1935 the U.S. Census notes that he was living in Paris. Miller served as general manager of the organic chemical section of the firm. The company was later acquired by W.R. Grace and company in 1955. In the late 1950s or early 1960s Miller developed the polyethylene tubing used in Hula Hoops. He retired in 1965 and moved to Pride's Crossing. Miller was active for many years in alumni affairs of MIT, serving a five-year term on the board of governors beginning in 1957. He was also president of the alumni committee and served on several committees of the corporation. He was awarded the university's Bronze Beaver award for service. The house was later owned by Maryann Leach from 1978 to 2014.

The Miller house was designed by Boston architect Eleanor Raymond (1888-1989). Raymond was born in Cambridge and after graduating from Wellesley College in 1909, enrolled in the Cambridge School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. The faculty of the school was largely drawn from the faculty of Harvard's School of Architecture. She worked in partnership with Henry Atherton Frost from 1927 to 1935. Raymond focused for the most part on residential architecture. In 1931 she designed one of the first International Style houses in the United States in Belmont for her sister Rachel (12 Park Ave., BLM.238, demolished 2006). She designed the house for her sister after a 1930 visit to the Bauhaus school in Weimar, Germany, making her one of the first Americans whose work benefited from direct exposure to International Style buildings. Eleanor Raymond was elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1961.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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"Belmont House for T.T. Miller", *Architectural Forum*, 72 (February 1940), 112-113.  
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*Boston Globe*, August 12, 1995, p. 15 [obituary of Theodore T. Miller].  
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Raymond, Eleanor Collection. Project files (A365), drawings, photographs . Special Collection Department, Frances Loeb Library, Harvard Design School.  
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1936 View of rear elevation of Miller House  
Source: Historic New England website

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Interior View  
Source: Historic New England website

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**National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form**

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible       Eligible **only** in a historic district
- Contributing to a potential historic district       Potential historic district

Criteria:     **A**     **B**     **C**     **D**

Criteria Considerations:     **A**     **B**     **C**     **D**     **E**     **F**     **G**

Statement of Significance by       Lisa Mausolf        
*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The Theodore Miller House at 105 Juniper Road is eligible for the National Register, Criterion C, as a unique early 20<sup>th</sup> century residence combining elements of the Colonial Revival and International Style, designed by noted architect Eleanor Raymond (1888-1989). It was built several years after the pivotal house she designed for her sister at 12 Park Avenue in Belmont. That house, designed in 1931 was one of the first International Style houses in the United States but was demolished in 2006. The Miller House retains a high level of integrity and is the earliest Raymond-designed house in Belmont. Two other surviving examples dating to the 1950s are found at 28 Tyler Road and 34 Kenmore Road.