

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

56-4	Boston North	BB	BLM.771
------	-----------------	----	---------

Town/City: Belmont

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

Address: 44 Juniper Road

Historic Name: George L. Clarke House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1937

Source: building permit

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Geddes, J. Peter, arch.;
Alcock, Samuel, bldr.

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: wood shingles

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 26,264 SF

Setting: neighborhood of mixed 20th century dwellings
in wooded setting

Photograph



Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): Nov. 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

44 JUNIPER ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

BB

BLM.771

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 44 Juniper Road is a Colonial Revival-style dwelling constructed in 1937. The two-story side-gabled main block measures 37' x 24' and is sheathed in wood shingles with an asphalt-covered roof that displays close eaves and a brick chimney on the east end. The primary elevation is just two bays wide. The sidehall entry has a simple entablature surround and the front door is set within a recess. The mix of window types identifies this as a 20th century version of the Colonial Revival and includes 8/8 double-hung units, tripartite sets and a large projecting bay window adjacent to the entrance. To the east of the main house block there is a single-story porch; projecting from the west end there is a 1 ½-story wing with two car garage (part of the original design).

The house itself is angled to the street and screened from the street by its wooded setting. A stone mortared wall runs along the road.

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.

Juniper Road was the last area of large homes to be developed on Belmont Hill. In 1928 the Trustees of the Belmont Hill Company sold a large parcel of land to Henry Hornblower. A series of large (20,000 to 50,000 square foot) lots were laid out on the east side of Juniper Road and the Brookline firm of Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot was retained to plan the site. Most of the original houses were traditional English and American Revival styles but later International Style and Contemporary dwellings were also constructed on the street.

Lot 18A was purchased by George L. Clarke (1905-1987). Clarke was given a building permit in 1937 for the construction of the house with garage underneath. The architect was J. Peter Geddes II (1903-1992) of Providence, Rhode Island. The house was constructed by Samuel Alcock.

Like many Belmont residents George Clarke was prominent in academia. He was born in Providence, Rhode Island and received a doctoral degree from Harvard in 1931. Clarke was a professor of biology at Harvard from 1930 until his retirement in 1972. He presented the first course in ecology to be offered at Harvard in 1939 and in 1954 he published *Elements of Ecology*. Clarke was also a member of the original scientific staff of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, conducted extensive research in oceanography and during World War II conducted research on life raft drift, anti-fouling paint and the prediction of waves and surf on landing beaches. Clarke also served as the town's conservation commissioner, chairman of the Highland Farm Sanctuary and a teacher and consultant for Habitat. The house was acquired by Elisha Atkins in the 1980s and is still owned by Elizabeth Atkins today.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

44 JUNIPER ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

BB	BLM.771
----	---------

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

American Institute of Architects. *Historical Directory of American Architects*. R.R. Bowker, 1956, 1962, 1970.

Belmont: The Architecture and Development of the Town of Homes. Prepared for the Belmont Historic District Commission, 1984.

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

Boston Globe, August 30, 1987 [obituary of George Clarke]

Flynn, Kay. Area Form for Juniper Hill (BLM.BB), October 1982.

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.

Town of Belmont, Building Department Files.

U.S. Census, various dates.