

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

| | | | |
|-------|--------------|----|---------|
| 55-36 | Boston North | BB | BLM.774 |
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Town/City: Belmont

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

Address: 85 Juniper Road

Historic Name: Clarence & Louise Nickerson House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1952

Source: building permit

Style/Form: International Style

Architect/Builder: Henry B. Hoover, architect

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: concrete block, wood

Roof: tar and gravel

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.7 acres (30,981 SF)

Setting: set close to street in mixed mid 20th century neighborhood with landscaped 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

85 JUNIPER ROAD

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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.

From the street the house at 85 Juniper Road is a minimalist single-story home constructed of concrete with an offcenter entrance and an attached two-garage at the south end. Fronted by a bluestone patio, the offcenter, recessed entrance consists of a plain door with sidelight, sheltered by an overhanging roof supported by a single thin metal pole. Adjacent to the entrance the roof is cutaway in front of four floor-to-ceiling plate glass windows. A tree rises from the polygonal hole. A smaller grid of windows punctuates the northern portion of the façade.

At the rear of the house there are two levels with bluestone upper and lower terraces. A wall of windows looks out over a large open lawn with surrounding specimen trees.

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 houses were traditional English and American Revival styles. This house is one of the last to be built in the subdivision and is located next door to a more eclectic International Style house at 105 Juniper Road (designed by Eleanor Raymond in 1936).

The original owner of the house, Clarence B. Nickerson (1907-1991), was born in Quincy. He graduated from Boston University in 1928 and Harvard Business School in 1930, receiving a doctorate at the school in 1935. He was a professor at Harvard Business School until his retirement in 1973. Prior to building the Juniper Road house, he and his wife Louise lived at 170 Washington Street before purchasing the land for this house (Lot 28).

The house was designed by Lincoln architect Henry B. Hoover (1902-1989). Born in Iowa, Hoover earned his Masters degree in architecture from Harvard's School of Architecture in 1926. He worked over a decade for the landscape firm of Fletcher Steele where he became Steele's chief architectural designer/draftsman, designing gardens and terraces for homes throughout the northeast. His architectural career began with his own house in Lincoln in 1937. During World War II he worked as an industrial designer for Raytheon. In 1945 he resumed his residential design work and designed more than 100 houses in Lincoln and other suburbs west of Boston, as well as houses in New Hampshire, Georgia, and Florida. His designs were characterized by the use of natural materials, open floor plan, and integral connection with nature. The builder of the house was Herbert L. Moore, Jr. The cost of the house was estimated at \$35,000 when built.

The Nickersons sold the house at 85 Juniper Road to Michael Deed in 1977. In 1987 it was sold to Dr. Robert Eisendrath (MCRD Book 1036, Page 67). Alexander and Melissa Pyle purchased the property in 2015.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- 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*, May 4, 1991 [obituary of Clarence Nickerson]
- Flynn, Kay. Area Form for Juniper Hill (BLM.BB), October 1982.
- Giese, Lucretia Hoover and Henry B. Hoover, Jr. *Breaking Ground*. Lebanon NH: University Press, 2015.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission, MACRIS data base.
- Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA
- Town of Belmont, Building Department files.
- U.S. Census, various dates.
- <http://www.bostonstonewalls.com/Pages/HooverProperty.aspx> [Info on Henry Hoover]
- <http://www.carolandmyra.com/resources/FEATURED-LISTINGS/85-Juniper-Rd/85-Juniper-Road-Floor-Plans.pdf>



Source: Multiple Listing, 2014

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<http://www.clproperties.com/prop/85-juniper-road-belmont-ma-02478-71760787> [accessed 2014]

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BELMONT

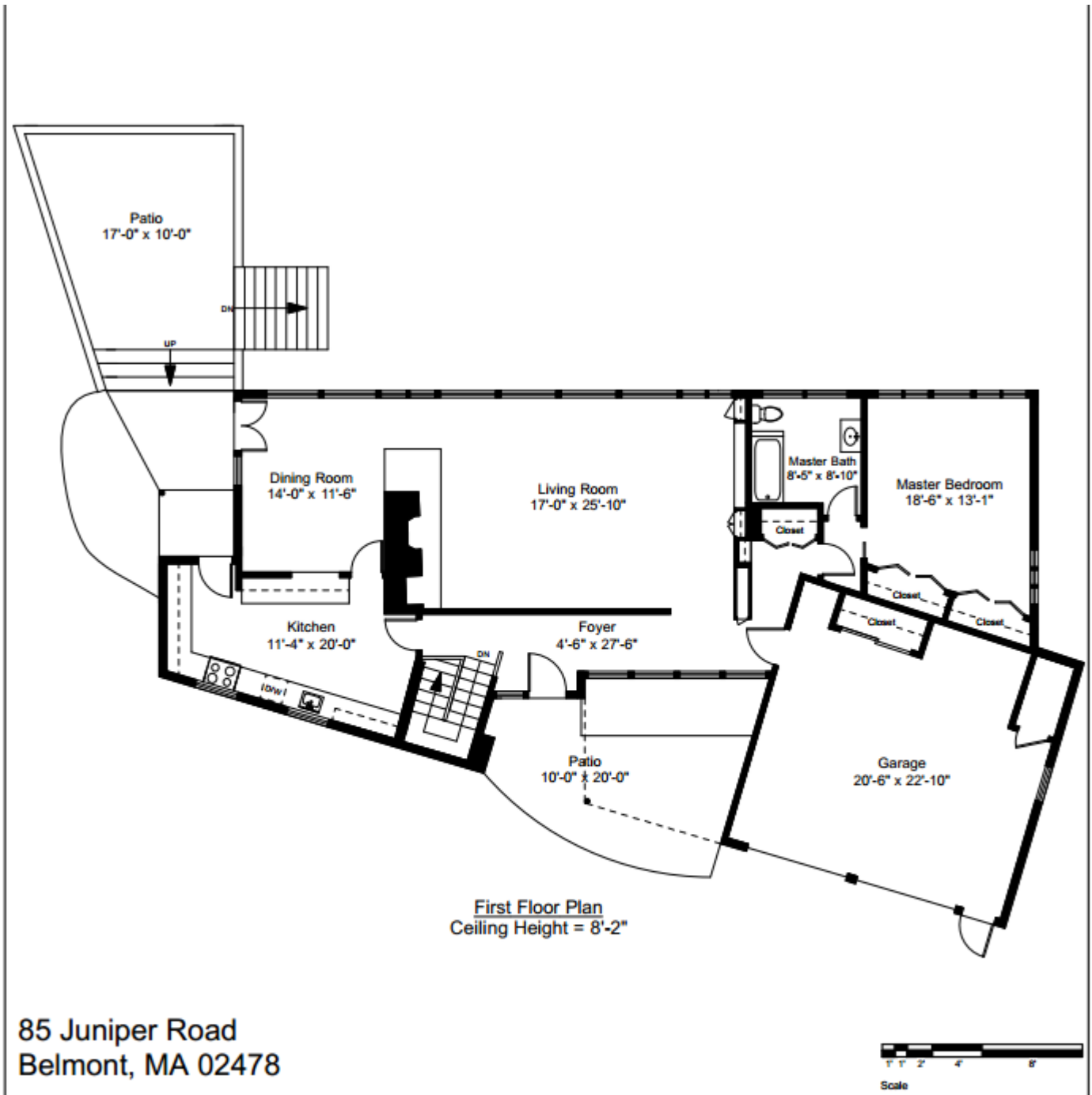
85 JUNIPER ROAD

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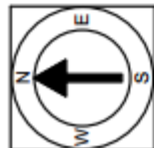
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Completed: October 2014
Note: Dimensions are not guaranteed and are provided for informational purposes only.



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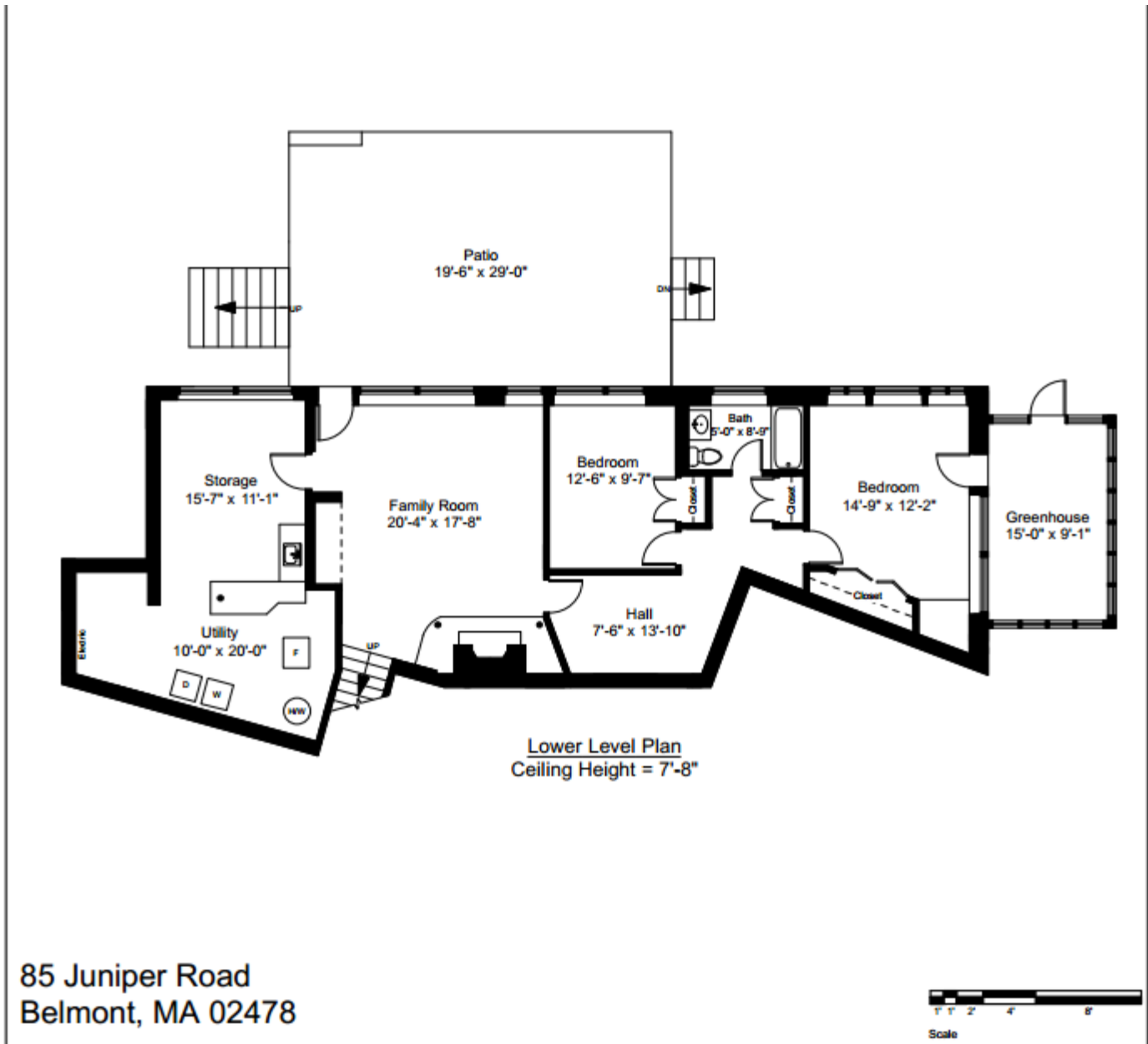
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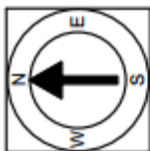
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