

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

47-58	Boston North		BLM.778
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**Town/City:** Belmont

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

**Address:** 54 Kenmore Road

**Historic Name:** Mabel McCreary House

**Uses:** Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** 1957

**Source:** building permit

**Style/Form:** Ranch

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

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: wood

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
none

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

**Condition:** good

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

**Acreage:** 65,713 SF

**Setting:** mid 20<sup>th</sup> century residential neighborhood

## Photograph



*Assessor's Photo – house not visible from street*

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Belmont Historic District Commission

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

54 KENMORE 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.*

Located at the end of the street and heavily obscured by vegetation, 54 Kenmore Road is a single-story hip-roofed wood-frame ranch house displaying an L-shaped plan with an attached two-car brick garage set at right angles to the north of the house. The house has minimal window openings facing the street. A lower level is visible on the rear elevation, exposed by the sloping site. A grid pergola over a patio is located at the junction of the house and garage wing.

A curving stone wall is located down the hill behind the house. Much of the remainder of the lot is wooded.

The McCreary House is the latest of the five residences which Eleanor Raymond designed in Belmont.

## 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.*

What is now Kenmore Road was originally located within the former J. Henry Fletcher property which spanned between Pleasant Street and Prospect Street. In 1933 Kenmore and Garfield Road were laid out by Ernest J. Corrigan as part of a residential development which he called Belmont Hill Park. In 1949 Kenmore Road was extended 185 feet to its present end on petition from Mabel McCreary in order to create a new lot which eventually became 54 Kenmore Road. Mabel McCreary was the widow of Lewis S. McCreary. Lewis and Mabel McCreary had previously lived in a large English Revival home at 85 Clifton Street which they had purchased from John Worcester in 1928. In 1956 Eleanor Raymond designed 54 Kenmore Road for Mrs. McCreary. The builder was Bernard Eckberg of Winchester.

Mabel McCreary died in 1970 and the house was inherited by her daughter Grace McCreary (1910-2003). Miss McCreary was a graduate of the first class at Sarah Lawrence College in 1930, received a BA from the New England Conservatory of Music and a MS from Radcliffe. She was a pianist and spent the major part of her life teaching piano. The house was sold by her trust in 2007.

The McCreary 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 at 105 Juniper Road (1936, BLM.776) shares several similarities with the International Style Raymond House including its flat-roofed profile, the contrast between the lower front/drive façade and the rear/garden façade, the use of cedar matched horizontal boards and expansive glass, balconies and decks to establish continuity between exterior and interior space. Other later projects by Raymond in Belmont include the Whiting House on Tyler Road (1950). An additional Raymond commission - the Meyer House at 240 Somerset Street (1956) – was demolished in 2010.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

*Belmont Citizen*, July 24, 2003 [obituary of Grace McCreary].

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

Cole, Doris. *Eleanor Raymond, Architect*. Philadelphia: Art Alliance Press, 1981.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA

Raymond, Eleanor Collection. Project files (A5616), correspondence, trace drawings for McCreary House. Special Collection

Department, Frances Loeb Library, Harvard Design School.

Town of Belmont, Building Department files.



Aerial View

Source: Bing Maps

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

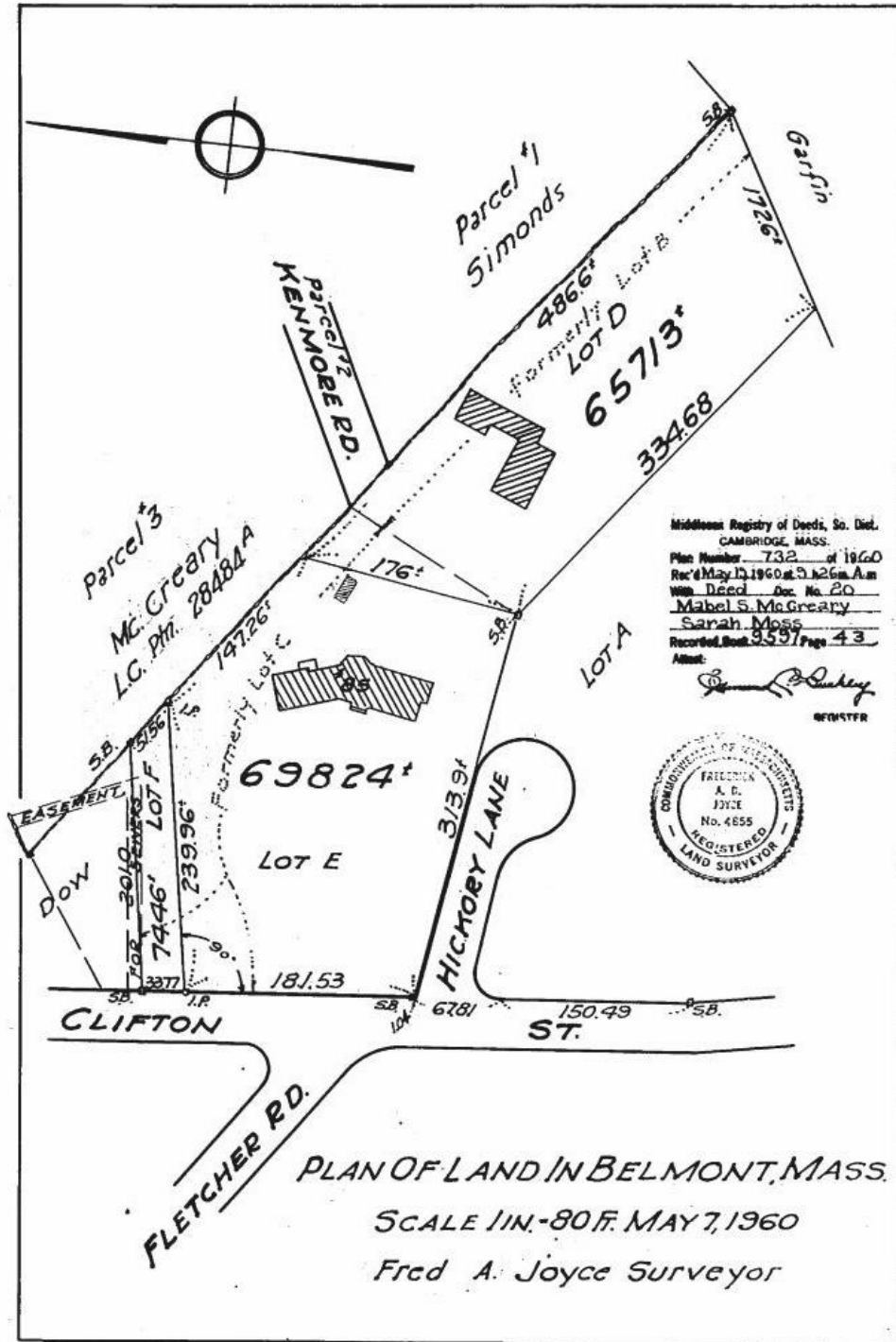
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Plan 732 of 1960 showing 85 Clifton (Lot E) and 54 Kenmore (Lot D)