

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

25-99

Boston
North

AR

BLM.110

Town/City: Belmont

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

Address: 15 Kilburn Road

Historic Name: Addie Kilburn Robinson House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1909

Source: building permit

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
shed (1990)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1938 – addition

1940 – garage under house

1989 – large rear addition

ca. 1990 – alt to front porch and new window above

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

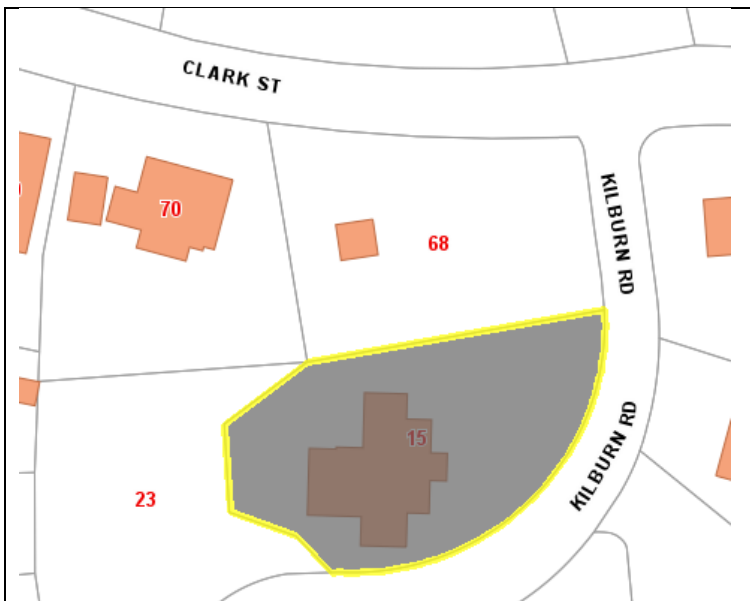
Acreage: 16,237 SF

Setting: neighborhood of early 20th century historical revival style houses

Photograph



Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): April 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

15 KILBURN 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.

The house at 15 Kilburn Road is an early 20th century Colonial Revival dwelling which has seen a number of renovations and additions over the years. The 2 ½-story clapboarded main block is capped by a gambrel roof and presents a five bay façade to the street. The front entrance has been reworked multiple times. Originally a single-story porch spanned the façade (1922-1949 Sanborn maps). When last inventoried in 1982 the entry was enclosed by a pedimented portico with fluted pilasters. As seen today, the enclosed portico has seen the removal of the pediment and the addition of two pairs of columns. Windows contain 6/6 sash set into molded surrounds and flanked by shutters. A shed wall dormer spans the front roof slope and has pairs of 6/6 windows. In recent years the central pair has been replaced by an arched window. Offset to the south is a 2 ½-story wing with similar trim and a clipped gable roof. A two-car garage was constructed underneath the wing in 1940. A single-story porch is located to the north of the main block and a rear addition was constructed in 1989.

The house sits on a large and well-landscaped lot. The adjacent parcel to the north (68 Clark Street) is also part of the property. It was the location of the Kilburn House (then numbered 60 Clark) until 1938. A small shed is located behind the Clark Street gate. The granite wall along Clark Street dates to the original house on the property.

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.

This house is representative of the architect-designed houses built on Clark Hill in the early 20th century following the subdivision of the former Kilburn Estate and was one of the first houses constructed in the subdivision. John Kilburn had died in 1904 and in 1909 the estate of Amanda Kilburn sold the estate to the Belmont Associates (MCRD Book 3452, Page 228). The group of well-to-do residents including Frederic Dodge (who lived at 81 Clark Street), Henry O. Underwood, Joseph O. Wellington, John Frenning (who lived at 35 Clover Street), and Francis Kendall (who lived at 47 Clark Street). The land was subdivided into lots of about 10,000 square feet and Kilburn and Blake Streets, named after the estate owners, were laid out through its center.

The house at 15 Kilburn Road is set on Lot 22 of the 1909 plan. It was sold by the trustees to Addie K. Robinson, a widow, in August 1909 (Book 3464, Page 2). Mrs. Robinson was the niece of John Kilburn who owned the large Blake estate on Clark Hill from 1892 until his death in 1904. Mrs. Robinson lived in a house on the Kilburn property at 60 Clark Street (that house was demolished in October 1938). It is not clear if Mrs. Robinson ever lived in the house at 15 Kilburn Road or what purpose it may have served. Addie Kilburn Robinson (1860-1935) was born in Littleton, New Hampshire where her father was a manufacturer of stereoscopic views. Addie K. Robinson had a Boston studio and was among the American women photographers whose portrait work was exhibited in Paris in 1900-1901. The 1910 Census shows her living at 60 Clark Street. In 1913 she sold the house at 15 Kilburn to Marian Hammer (Book 3849, Page 429). She was the wife of Charles Hammer who was an insurance broker. The Hammers lived here until 1924 when they moved to a new house at 22 Kilburn, selling 15 Kilburn to Paul and Ruth Caskey (Book 4740, Page 61). Paul Caskey was a paper manufacturer.

During the Caskeys' ownership various changes were made to the property including a 16' x 30' addition in 1938 designed by architects Kilham, Hopkins and Greeley. Also in 1938 the old house to the north was demolished. A two-car garage was constructed under the house in 1940. Paul Caskey died in 1965 but his wife Ruth continued to live here for many years. The house was sold by her estate in 1989 and purchased by Edward and Christine Carye (Book 19818, Page 534). The property is still owned by the Carye family today. A large rear addition was constructed by the new owners and a shed was built on the adjacent parcel, facing Clark Street.

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Williams, Judy. Area form for Clark Hill (BLM.AR) and 15 Kilburn Road (BLM.110), 1982.

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Shed, view from Clark Street

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Photo of house from 1982 inventory form
(Note changes to entrance and window above since that time)