

FORM B – BUILDING

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

25-71	Boston North	AR	BLM.779
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town/City: Belmont

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

Photograph



Address: 22 Kilburn Road

Historic Name: Charles and Marian Hammer House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1923

Source: building permit

Style/Form: Craftsman/Colonial/Spanish Colonial

Architect/Builder: Julius A. Schweinfurth, architect

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: wood shingles

Roof: ceramic tile

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 11,664 SF

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

Locus Map



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): November 2014

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

22 KILBURN ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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 22 Kilburn Road is an unusual early 20th century eclectic dwelling which defies identification with one specific architectural style. The 2 ½-story dwelling rests on a concrete foundation and is sheathed in wood shingles. The façade has an asymmetrical gablefront and the roof itself is clad in red ceramic tiles with a brick off-ridge chimney. The vergeboard is supported by projecting purlins with exposed rafter tails on the lateral eaves. The double-hung 6/6 windows with molded surrounds and the pulvinated frieze over the entrance reflect a Colonial Revival aesthetic while the casement windows tucked under the descending gable are more Craftsman in their inspiration. At the base of the longer slope there is a second entrance. A brick patio fronts the façade and there is a hedge along the frontage. The house is shaded by a large pine tree as well as other mature plantings.

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. 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 22 Kilburn Road is set on Lot 20 of the 1909 plan but was one of the latter houses built in the neighborhood. According to the building permit it was constructed in 1923 for Marian Hammer, wife of Charles. Charles Dunkel Hammer was an insurance broker. He was much older than his (second) wife, having been born in 1844 and was a Civil War veteran who attained the rank of Lieutenant. Marian Shapleigh was born in Melrose in 1880. The couple married in Los Angeles in 1911 when she was 31 and he was 66. They moved back to the east coast and had two daughters who were born in Newton in 1913 and 1914. Prior to living in this house the Hammers lived at 15 Kilburn. Charles Hammer died in 1932 and was buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia. Marian Hammer continued to live here after his death and sold the property to Theodore and Mary Ingalls in 1941 (Book 6513, Page 104). Dr. Theodore Hunt Ingalls was on the staff of Harvard Medical School, the Harvard School of Public Health and Children's Hospital. The house was sold to Daniel and Mary Clare O'Connell in 1958 and they sold to George and Virginia McCarthy in 1966. The house is still owned by the McCarthy family today.

According to the building permit, the house was designed by Boston architect Julius A. Schweinfurth. Schweinfurth (1882-1931) was born in Auburn, New York and came to Boston in 1879. He was employed for many years by the architectural firm of Peabody and Stearns. In 1895 he left to open his own practice. Between 1895 and 1928 he designed more than 70 buildings. He enjoyed a national reputation and participated in many of the high profile architectural competitions of the day. He designed a number of buildings for Wellesley College, several schools in the Boston area as well as public buildings. He also designed residences and mansions in and around Boston including the Back Bay, Beacon Street, Commonwealth Avenue, Brookline and Roxbury. Northeastern University is the depository for his collected papers including artwork, sketches, and architectural plans. There is no listing in the records for the Hammer House. The Hammer House is of interest as a relatively late and modest example of the architect's work.

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