

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

34-136	Boston North	AT	BLM.780
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Town/City: Belmont

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Belmont Center

Address: 49-63 Leonard Street

Historic Name: Locatelli Block

Uses: Present: commercial

Original: commercial

Date of Construction: ca. 1940

Source: maps, directories

Style/Form: Georgian Revival

Architect/Builder: John Edmund Kelley (likely)

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: brick, stone,

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

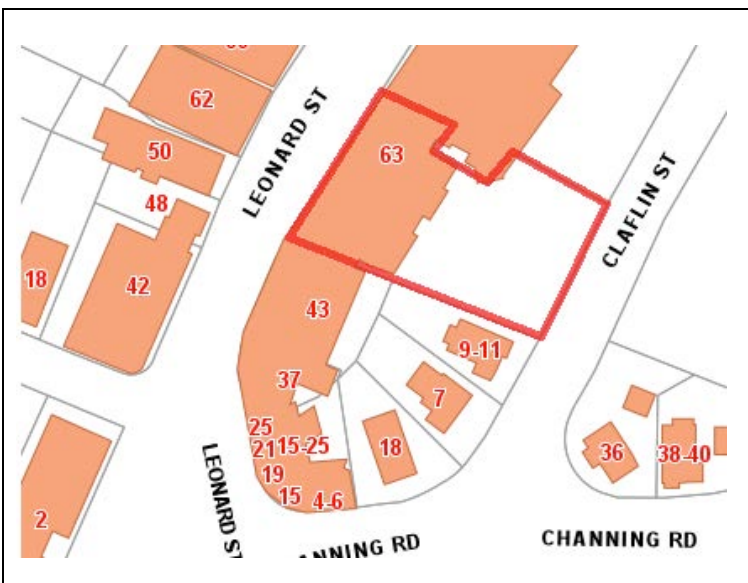
Acreage: 30,264 SF

Setting: downtown commercial center

Photograph



Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): October 2014

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

49-63 LEONARD STREET

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 Locatelli Block at 49-63 Leonard Street is a commercial structure consisting of eight storefronts situated in a two-story, side-gabled brick structure flanked by two smaller single-story wings. The complex is embellished by a variety of Colonial Revival details include a central cupola, parapet walls, a swan's neck pediment, fluted pilasters and semi-circular fanlights. The storefronts have recessed entries flanked by display windows set on polished granite or brick bulkheads. The second floor has a large arched double-hung window in the central gable and hip-roofed wall dormers on either side.

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.

According to Sanborn maps, this block of stores was constructed by Albert Locatelli after 1939 and before 1944 (a building permit was not found). Albert J. Locatelli (1900-1964) was a realtor and developer. Born in Somerville, he was the son of a contractor. During the 1920s he built and operated a chain of motion picture theaters including the Capitol in Arlington and the Central and Ball Square Theaters in Somerville. He moved to Belmont in 1930 and lived in the house at 225 Prospect Street until 1950. In the 1930s he began building shopping areas that combined urban shops with suburban settings and architecture including 49-89 Leonard Street in Belmont which was developed in stages in 1936, 1941 and 1952. He built similar units in Winchester and later Dedham.

In 1944 the tenants of the block were #49 – The Cleanliness shop; #51 – Beauty House; #53 – Dorothy Muriel, bakers; #55 – Hood's Creamery; #59 – Sage's Market; #61 – Macy Drug Co.; and #63 – U.E. Slocum, florist.

The architect of the block was likely John Edmund Kelley who was the architect for 65-89 Leonard Street, according to the Nov. 1940 building permit application. Kelley (1882-1951) was born in Prince Edward Island. He attended MIT from 1908 to 1910. He worked for someone named Perkins in 1910 and in 1917-18 worked for architects Blackall, Clapp & Whittemore. He lived in Randolph and had an office in Boston for many years at 38 Chauncy Street. The MACRIS data base associates him with nine commissions – many appear to have been renovations of older buildings.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Ancestry.com.

Belmont Directories, various dates.

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, Dec. 21, 1964 [obituary of Albert Locatelli]

Massachusetts Historical Commission. MACRIS database.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA

Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1915, 1922, 1931, 1949.

Town of Belmont, Building Department files.

U.S. Census, various dates.

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