

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

34-134	Boston North	AT	BLM.
--------	--------------	----	------

**Town/City:** Belmont

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

**Address:** 65-89 Leonard Street

**Historic Name:** Locatelli Block Addition

**Uses:** Present: commercial

Original: commercial

**Date of Construction:** 1941

**Source:** building permit

**Style/Form:** Georgian Revival

**Architect/Builder:** John Edmund Kelley (1941)

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: brick

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
none

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

1956 – Filene's addition at north end

1978 – alterations and additions at #75

2016 - renovations/new construction at north end

**Condition:** good

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

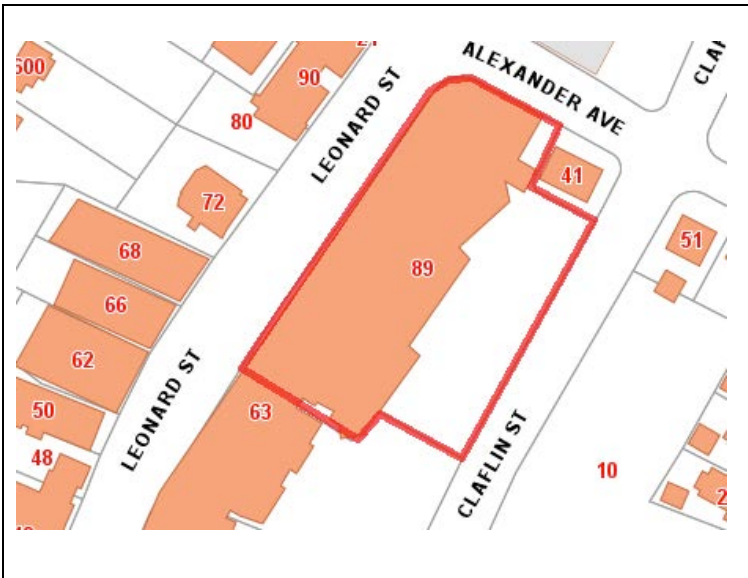
**Acreage:** 89,048 SF

**Setting:** downtown business district

## Photograph



## Locus Map (north at top)



**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Belmont Historic District Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): Oct. 2016

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

65-89 LEONARD STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AT

BLM.781

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 building at 65-89 Leonard Street was constructed as an addition to 49-63 Leonard Street. It was built shortly after the construction of the original building. It is not a replica of the first building but a sympathetic design which also draws from the Georgian Revival. The south end of the block is a 2 ½-story structure which has a brick façade and gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles with hip-roofed dormers and brick parapet ends. The first floor has recessed storefronts with display windows set on granite bases. A stone dentil course runs above the storefront signage panels. The center entrance leading up to the second floor offices is recessed and the glass and panel door has a paneled embrasure. The stone surround is eared and topped by an entablature supported by console brackets with a blank panel with guttae “drops” above the rectangular transom which contains a semi-circular lunette with ornate tracery. The thirteen second floor window openings contain double-hung 6/1 sash with brick lintels with keystones and stone sills.

Either side of this 2 ½-story block is a lower single-story section with a brick parapet above a bay window. To the north of this, there was a two-story Colonial structure which was originally constructed for Filene’s. It was designed with parapet ends and a five-bay façade dominated by two-story posts with iron railings spanning between the posts on the upper floor and storefronts below. The five bays were filled with panels in the 1970s. The building is currently undergoing renovations. The 1956 addition at the north end is being replaced by a single-story brick section which echoes the brick exterior and parapet ends of the earlier structure.

## 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.*

The block at 65-89 Leonard Street was constructed as an addition to the original Locatelli Block at 49-63 Leonard Street. Ground was broken for the addition in December 1940. The steel, brick, stone, and wood building contained six stores and ten offices. Like the original it was constructed by the Albert Locatelli Co. of Arlington. The architect was John Edmund Kelley of Boston. The cost of the building was \$100,000.

Filene’s was the first store to open in the new block and opened on Saturday, May 3, 1941. The interior designer of the new store was J.E. Holmes. In 1944 the Filene’s was the first department store to have merchandise delivered by helicopter. In addition to Filene’s the other early store tenants included #65 – First National Stores; #69 – Ben Franklin Stores; #71 – Ye Goodie Shoppe, candies; #73 – Town and Country, women’s wear and #75 – Lewandos, Launderers. The upstairs offices were occupied by the American Red Cross, A.J. Locatelli Real Estate, Mrs. & Mrs. John Spenlinhauer; Joseph C. Paes, a podiatrist; architect Giles Smith; Dr. Fred Rogers and Dr. M.J. Daley, dentists; Joseph Jameson; and Donald S. Taylor, osteopath.

In October 1955 plans were announced to construct an addition for Filene’s at the north end of the block, at the corner of Alexander Avenue and Leonard Street. The architect for the one-story new limestone and brick building was Rich & Tucker Associates of Boston. The interior designer was Raymond Loewy of New York who had previously designed Filene’s at Chestnut Hill and the new North Shore store. The addition more than doubled the original store. The grand opening celebration included entertainment by the Belmont High School band, a hurdy-gurdy man, and Daisy Meadows of the Whiting Milk Company. Additional alterations took place in 1978 when the four-level store at 75 Leonard Street opened. The architect for the 1978 alterations and addition was Sumner Schein.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

65-89 LEONARD STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AT

BLM.781

---

In September 2006 the Filene's was converted into a Macy's by then-owner Federated Department Stores. The store finally closed in 2013 and was one of the last "Main Street" department stores in the Macy's inventory. The former Macy's site at 75 Leonard is currently (2016) being renovated for Foodie's Supermarket.

According to the November 1940 building permit application, the original architect of the block was John Edmund Kelley (1882-1951) who 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 Citizen*, April 25, 1941; May 2, 1941; October 28, 1955; May 25, 1956

Belmont Directories, various dates.

Belmont Patch, January 3, 2013 [Macy's closing]

*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 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)*. Belmont: Belmont Historical Society, 2012.

*Boston Globe*, Dec. 21, 1964 [obituary of Albert Locatelli]

Lisicky, Michael J. *Filene's: Boston's Great Specialty Store*. Arcadia Publishing, 2012.

Longstreth, Richard, compiler. *Department Store Branches, 1910-1960*.

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.

<http://www.thedepartmentstoremuseum.org/2010/07/william-filenes-sons-co-boston.html>

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

BELMONT

65-89 LEONARD STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AT	BLM.781
----	---------



Work in progress (Oct. 2016)

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

BELMONT

65-89 LEONARD STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

AT	BLM.781
----	---------

