

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

24-26	Boston North	Q	BLM.782
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**Town/City:** Belmont

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

**Address:** 16 Myrtle Street

**Historic Name:** Charles Sherman House

**Uses:** Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** 1897 or 1898

**Source:** deeds, atlas

**Style/Form:** Queen Anne/Shingle

**Architect/Builder:** Bartlett Brothers (likely)

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood shingles/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
garage (1919)

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

**Condition:** good

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

**Acreage:** 7,350 SF

**Setting:** neighborhood of late 19<sup>th</sup> century dwellings on well-landscaped streets

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Belmont Historic District Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): December 2014

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

16 MYRTLE STREET

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 16 Myrtle Street is a well-preserved example of the Shingle Style which is sheathed in wood shingles above a mortared stone foundation. The asymmetrical design consists of a side-gabled mass with a conical-roofed, two-story round tower at the north end of the façade adjacent to a two-bay porch with shingled supports. The porch is capped by a simple balustrade. The wall adjacent to the original wood-and-glass front door is curved and above the entrance there is a three-sided bay which is topped by a smaller shed dormer. Most of the windows contain double-hung 6/1 windows with exterior storm windows. On the south side gable the windows are staggered; on the north side there is a two-story, three-sided bay window.

A driveway extends along the north side of the house, terminating at a small gable-front, single car garage which is also shingled. According to building permits, it was constructed in 1919.

A near twin of this house is located at 11 Oak Street which has columned porch supports.

## 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 was part of the Belmont Park subdivision laid out by William W. Lowe in 1894. Located off Concord Avenue, Belmont Park was an early speculative development of single family housing in Belmont (MCRD Plan Book 87, Plan 7). Advertisements touted the development of "moderately-priced suburban homes". Located a little more than a quarter mile from the depot and six miles from Boston, the neighborhood quickly became popular with affluent Boston commuters and all of the lots were developed by 1898. The deeds for the lots carried restrictions for seventeen years from January 1, 1893 prohibiting buildings other than dwelling houses and private stables. Manufacturing and the sale of liquor was also prohibited and all buildings had to have a value exceeding \$3,000. Legend has it that house lots were originally sold in noncontiguous pairs to insure variety and yet consistency in the neighborhood. Many houses in the area have a twin on another lot in Belmont Park. A near twin of the house at 16 Myrtle Street is found at 11 Oak Street.

The 7,350 square foot lot (Lot 20) on Myrtle Street was conveyed by William Lowe to Susan Bartlett on November 30, 1896. Mrs. Bartlett was a widow who lived in Melrose and appears to have been related to Lowe's business partner, Wilbert Bartlett. She owned a number of lots in Belmont Park. The 1898 map shows the house in place, owned by Mrs. Bartlett. A brief mention in the *Belmont Bulletin* on August 28, 1897 notes the fifty or so new houses which had been built in the School Street area within the past year noting "Messrs. Bartlett Brothers are in charge of the work and they know their business". The house was purchased by Charles Sherman of Cambridge in 1900 (MCRD Book 2825, Page 359). According to the 1910 U.S. Census Charles W. Sherman was then 39 and was employed by the State as a civil engineer. He lived here with his wife Elizabeth, two sons, mother, sister and a servant. Sherman, then a widower, was still living here in 1940 with a servant. The house remained in the Sherman family until 1958 when John Sherman sold the property to Zbigniew and Emilie Brzezinski. Zbigniew Brzezinski lived here about a year. Denied tenure at Harvard, he moved to New York City where he taught at Columbia University and later served as National Security Advisor to President Jimmy Carter from 1977 to 1981.

Later owners included Robert Eisendrath (1960-1987) and Barry Lydgate and Marianne Jacobbi (1987-2006). Christopher and Deborah Galli purchased the house in 2006 (Book 48686, Page 480).

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