

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

24-37	Boston North	Q	BLM.783
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**Town/City:** Belmont

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

**Address:** 17 Myrtle Street

**Historic Name:** A. B. Parker House

**Uses:** Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1895

**Source:** deeds, maps

**Style/Form:** Shingle Style

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood shingle/wood

Roof: wood shingle/asphalt shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
none

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

**Condition:** good

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

**Acreage:** 7,325 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

17 MYRTLE 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 house at 17 Myrtle Street is a two-story Shingle Style dwelling which consists of a side-gambrel main body with a prominent off-center gambrel projecting from the north part of the façade. There is a recessed single-story porch at the southern end of the façade. It is supported by Doric columns. A distinctive arched recessed porch pierces the second story of the front gambrel. It is framed by squat columns reminiscent of a Palladian window motif while an oval window lights the attic above. Other character-defining features include the three-sided bay window tucked under the overhanging pent on the gambrel front and another single-story three-sided bay window on the north end. Windows contain double-hung 1/1 sash.

## 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.

This was Lot 3 of the Belmont Park subdivision. The 1898 map shows the house in place, owned by A.B. Parker. A brief mention in the *Belmont Bulletin* in 1898 noted that A.B. Parker, now of New Hampshire, sold the house to John Wilcock who had occupied it since last fall. John Wilcock was still living here at the time of the 1910 Census. Then 37 years old, Wilcock was born in England and worked as a wool buyer. He lived here with his wife Jane, son Andrew and a servant. The family was still living here in 1915.

By 1935 the house was occupied by Louise Ballam who lived here with her niece Louise Crepeau, Louise's husband, Louis; and two other nieces, Helen and Ida Gately. Louis Crepeau worked as an automotive tin knocker. The house was conveyed by Louise Ballam's estate to Helen and John Gately in 1954. In 1986 it was sold by Helen Gately's estate to James and Kathleen Trainor who owned the property until 2004. Lawrence Kutner and Cheryl Olson owned it from 2004 until 2010 when it was sold to Haihong Li and Xiaowen Yang (Book 54558, Page 229).

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Ancestry.com

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

Lucas, Nora. Area Form for Belmont Park, Nov. 1982.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA

*Plan of Belmont Park House Lots in Belmont belonging to William W. Lowe and Others*, Jan. 1894. Plan Book 17, Plan 7.

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

Stadley, George W. *Atlas of the Towns of Watertown, Belmont, Arlington, and Lexington*. 1898.

U.S. Census, various dates.



Louis Crepeau (1901-1965) with 17 Myrtle in background?

Source: Ancestry.com

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**National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form**

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible       Eligible **only** in a historic district  
 Contributing to a potential historic district       Potential historic district

Criteria:     **A**     **B**     **C**     **D**

Criteria Considerations:     **A**     **B**     **C**     **D**     **E**     **F**     **G**

Statement of Significance by       Lisa Mausolf        
*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The house at 17 Myrtle Street appears to be eligible for the National Register as part of a potential Belmont Park historic district. It is significant locally under Criterion C as a good example of the Shingle Style, one of several variations in this neighborhood which was completely developed during a relatively short period between 1894 and 1898. The neighborhood retains a high level of integrity as a cohesive area of late 19<sup>th</sup> century residences in the Colonial Revival, Queen Anne and Shingle Styles. Under Criterion A, Belmont Park is significant as an early development of single family housing that reflects the suburbanization of the town as a result of its easy access to Boston.