

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

23-82	Boston North	Q	BLM.791
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Town/City: Belmont

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

Address: 17 Oak Street

Historic Name: Eugene and Edna Pierce House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1897

Source: maps, deeds

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Bartlett Brothers (likely)

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard, wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

garage (1953)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1996 – repair porch

2015 – 2 story addition to rear

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 8,050 SF

Setting: neighborhood of late 19th 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 OAK 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 17 Oak Street is a good example of a late 19th century Colonial Revival dwelling also influenced by the Queen Anne and Shingle Style. Capped by a hip roof, the asymmetrical Colonial Revival incorporates details inspired by colonial precedents including the semi-circular arched panel centered above the main entrance, the Palladian window on the north wall, and the denticulated cornices. A porch supported by fluted posts fronts part of the façade and adjacent there is a shingled, curved bay. Other Queen Anne-inspired features include the use of bay windows, the double-hung sash with 6/1 and 12/1 sash, and the hipped, wood shingled dormers.

The two-car garage to the rear was constructed in 1953.

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.

The (Lot 32) was conveyed by William Lowe and Wilbert Bartlett to Susan Bartlett on November 30, 1896 (MCRD Book 2519, Page 338). Mrs. Bartlett lived in Melrose and was likely related to Wilbert Bartlett. She owned a number of lots in Belmont Park. 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". This may have very well been one of the houses constructed by the Bartletts. It had been constructed by the time of the 1898 Stadley map.

In 1900 Mrs. Bartlett sold the property to Edna Pierce of Boston, wife of Eugene (MCRD Book 2850, Page 535). He was a civil engineer and she worked at the State House. The couple had no children. In 1911 the house was conveyed by Edna Pierce's estate to Belle J. Grant. In 1940 73-year old Belle Grant was living here with her 86-year old sister Marjorie Grant. Both were born in Canada. In 1941 Belle Grant conveyed the property to Ima Dorothy Pierce, wife of Melbourne Pierce (Book 6552, Page 386). The Pierces added a two-car garage to the rear. Later owners included Carlton Bird and Barbara Pierce Bird who sold the property in 2006 to Anil Khosla. It was sold to Jean-Francois Goldstyn and Angela Saltonstall in 2009 (Book 52122, Page 267).

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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.

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.

