

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

23-100	Boston North	V	BLM.797
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

**Town/City:** Belmont

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

## Photograph



**Address:** 23 Orchard Street

**Historic Name:** Atkins-Baxter House

**Uses:** Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1920

**Source:** deeds

**Style/Form:** Craftsman Colonial

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: novelty siding

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
garage (1921)

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

date? - sunporch

2011 – new rear addition

**Condition:** good

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

**Acreage:** 14,297 SF

**Setting:** early 20<sup>th</sup> century residential neighborhood on informally landscaped lots, facing Orchard Circle

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Belmont Historic District Commission

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

23 ORCHARD STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

BLM.797

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 23 Orchard Street is a distinctive early 20<sup>th</sup> century house which displays the influence of both Colonial and Craftsman sources. The gambrel-roofed dwelling is unusual for retaining its novelty siding. The Colonial Revival is reflected in the gambrel roof, modillions decorating the front overhang and front entrance porch with Doric front columns and pilasters flanking the door. The exposed rafter tails on the front shed dormer and the smaller shed dormer on top belie a Craftsman influence. A gambrel-roofed wing to the west has a first floor glazed sunporch. Most of the windows contain 6/6 sash; there is a lunette in the attic. The rear ell dates to 2011 replacing a late 20<sup>th</sup> century ell.

To the west of the house is a gambrel fronted two-car garage constructed in 1921.

## 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 property was part of a larger parcel of land sold by Charles Stone to the Trustees of School Street Associates in 1912 (Book 3671, Page 214). In August 1919 the Trustees sold this parcel of land (Lot 47) to Robert W. Atkins (Book 4311, Page 247). The original building permit for the house was not found in the town files but Atkins apparently built the present house although he lived on Somerset Street on Belmont Hill and does not appear to have ever occupied this dwelling. In June 1921 Robert W. Atkins sold the land with buildings to Richard A. Baxter (Book 4441, Page 590). He was granted a building permit for the garage in July 1921. Richard Baxter was a commercial traveler for an art publishing company and lived here with his wife Marion. In 1939 Baxter defaulted on his 1926 mortgage and the property was subsequently sold by the Belmont Savings Bank to Doris Reed, wife of L. Kendall Reed (Book 6515, Page 54). L. Kendall Reed was an insurance agent. The house was sold by Doris Reed to Henry and Mary Mulloy in 1963 (Book 10419, Page 378). Mrs. Mulloy sold the house in 1985. The house was later owned by William Fisher and by Joann Lisberger until 2003 when she sold it to Robert Mountain and Carol Kean.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Ancestry.com

*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 Stone Estate (Area V), 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.

Town of Belmont, Building Department files.

U.S. Census, various dates.