

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

46-42	Boston North		BLM.803
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Town/City: Belmont

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



Address: 307 Pleasant Street

Historic Name: Henry Frost House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1844

Source: Betts, p. 286

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: granite

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards, wood

Roof: slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

ca. 1884 – bay window, new front doors, front porch
2013 – new windows, porch replaced

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 13,215 SF

Setting: mixed residential along busy road

Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (month / year): April 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

307 PLEASANT STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

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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 Henry Frost House at 307 Pleasant Street is a 2 ½-story, 5 x 2-bay dwelling which is sheathed in wood clapboards and trimmed with recessed panel cornerboards that give rise to a wide frieze and pediment ends, features which are indicative of the Greek Revival style. Two interior brick chimneys rise from the roof ridge and a two-story ell extends behind. The house is fronted by a single-story, six-bay porch supported by simple posts with a stick balustrade. The window openings under the porch are elongated, indicative of the Greek Revival style; those on the second floor are shorter and extend to the frieze. In the 1880s the original center entrance framed by pilasters was altered, removing the sidelights to accommodate double doors. At the same time a two-story, three-sided bay window was added on the west elevation. Windows contain modern 6/6 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 constructed about 1844 for Henry Frost, a member of the locally prominent Frost Family. Progenitor Ephraim Frost bought a lot containing twelve acres of land in the vicinity of Pleasant Street in 1739. By the time his son Ephraim died in 1797 the Frost estate had grown to 171 acres. Four generations later, Henry Frost (1801-1882), the son of Ephraim and Elizabeth Frost built the house at 307 Pleasant Street about 1844 (Betts: 286). In 1850 Henry Frost was living in the house with his wife Miranda (Cutter) whom he had married in 1830, six of their children, his mother-in-law and a laborer. Silas and Warren Frost lived nearby. Henry and Miranda's seventh child Albert C. Frost was born in the house in 1845. He was later killed in the Civil War. Like his ancestors, Henry Frost was a farmer and also served the town as Selectman from 1876 to 1880.

Henry Frost died in 1882 and the house was inherited in 1884 by his son, Charles Austin Frost (1843-1926). It was during Charles' ownership that the house was renovated in the Queen Anne style. Alterations included the addition of bay windows and new front doors and parquet floors and a new over mantel inside. He had married his second wife Georgiana Smith in 1881. In 1900 the couple was living here with their two children and a servant. Charles was a well-known and successful market gardener who had built his first greenhouse to the rear of the house in 1890. Others were added in the years that followed and in 1911 he built the largest, measuring 240 feet long. Frost had two and a half acres "under glass" and produced five crops a year. Lettuce was raised in the hot houses but there were also fields with beets, tomatoes, celery, dandelions, parsley, and lettuce.

In 1913 Charles Frost conveyed the house at 307 Pleasant and farm to his son Albert H. Frost (1883-1953), building a new house next door at 301 Pleasant Street (Betts: 286). In 1920 Charles was living at #301 with his daughter Mabel, a boarder and a servant while Albert, his wife Marie and four children lived at #307. Prior to the laying out of the Concord Turnpike in 1933, the property included fourteen acres of land. Four acres were lost to the Turnpike. In March 1943 Albert Frost closed down the farm and auctioned off his six greenhouses and farm equipment. The lack of help available during the World War II forced the closing of the farm (Betts: 286; Belmont Citizen, March 19, 1943). The ten-acre property was sold by Marie Frost in 1961 to Robbins Spring Realty, headed by Paul Nelson, a developer from Arlington (Book 9861, Page 258). The house at 307 Pleasant was owned by Gerald and Ann Ouellette from 1961 to 1971 and by Robert and Ruth Davis from 1971 to 2003. Dana and Elizabeth Bonstrom owned it from 2003 to 2009 when it was sold to Iris Ponte and John Hugg. The property has housed the Henry Frost House preschool center since 2011. Iris Ponte received an award from the Belmont Historical Society in 2011 for the renovation of the house.

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