

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

48-31

Boston  
North

BA

BLM.232

**Town/City:** Belmont

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

**Address:** 216 Prospect Street

**Historic Name:** George Prentiss III House

**Uses:** Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** 1847

**Source:** French article, 1973

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
none

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

2004 – 11' x 13' wing rebuilt

2014 – second floor added over garage

**Condition:** good

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

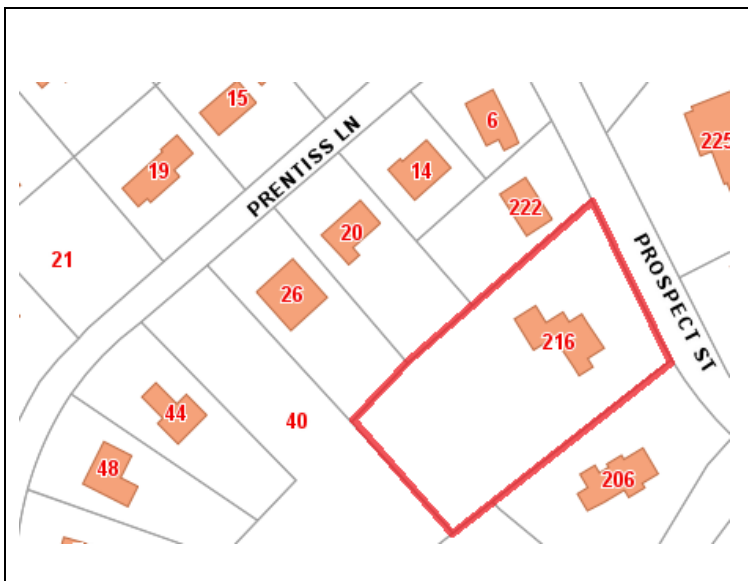
**Acreage:** 41,216 SF

**Setting:** mixed residential

## Photograph



## Locus Map (north at top)



**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Belmont Historic District Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): May 2016

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

216 PROSPECT 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.*

Largely screened by vegetation, the house at 216 Prospect Street is a Greek Revival style farmhouse oriented with its 2 ½-story, three-bay pediment front to the street. The clapboarded building is outlined by paneled cornerboards with a two-part frieze. The façade is fronted by a single-story porch supported by fluted Doric columns. The sidehall entrance is framed by sidelights and the windows contain double-hung 6/6 sash. Attached to the north side of the main block is a lower two-story ell fronted by a single-story, 11' x 13' projection with a wood-frame attached barn/garage offset to the west. (Note: this property is not included in Sanborn maps but the footprint of these sections appear to be in place on the 1898 map.) The 11' x 13' section was replaced in kind in 2004. In 2014, a second floor was added over the garage.

## 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 built by George Prentiss III (1809-1891) at the time of his 1847 marriage. Prior to this he lived in his father's house at 233 Prospect Street (BLM.241). He and his wife Mary (who was born in England) raised three children here – George A., Josephine and Mary. In 1870 two farm laborers and a domestic servant were also in residence. Like his father before him and his son, George Prentiss III was a farmer. When George A. Prentiss married in 1881 he moved to his own house next door at 206 Prospect (BLM.230), built on land he received from his father.

After her father's death in 1891, the house was occupied by Josephine Prentiss (1852-1937). At times Miss Prentiss rented out part of the house to tenants. Architect James MacNaughton and his wife were living here in 1915. The Misses Bradley (Anna and Mary) were living here from about 1918 to 1925. By 1927 Josephine Prentiss had moved to Arlington and the house was occupied by Henry Sears and William Barker.

In 1931 a large barn on the property was demolished. Mrs. Alice Hutchins was living here from about 1932 into the 1940s. The 1940 Census lists the occupants of the house as Mrs. Hutchins, her daughter, Ruth Mather, son-in-law Thomas Mather, a college English professor and their two children.

Later owners included Kenneth Wadleigh. John and Agnes Burke owned the house in 1986 and ownership passed to Rosemary Burke in 1995. She still owns it today.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Belmont Directories, 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.

French, Mrs. Frank. "The George Prentice, Jr. House – 233 Prospect Street", *Belmont Citizen*, October 11, 1973.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA

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.



Assessor's photo