

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

52-8	Boston North	BA	BLM.241
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

**Town/City:** Belmont

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

**Address:** 233 Prospect Street

**Historic Name:** George Prentiss II House

**Uses:** Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** 1809

**Source:** French, 1973

**Style/Form:** Federal

**Architect/Builder:** Elizabeth Cope Aub (1928 renov.)

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
none

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

1928 – ell and sheds removed for new wing & greenhouse, interior alt. including library

2009 – new windows

2010 – new two-story addition to east

**Condition:** good

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

**Acreage:** 72,529 SF

**Setting:** screened by vegetation with stone wall in front

## Photograph



## Locus Map (north at top)



**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Belmont Historic District Commission

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

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

233 PROSPECT 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 Prentiss House at 233 Prospect Street is a property which was originally constructed in 1809 but saw considerable alteration and addition in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and more recently, an addition in the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The 2 ½-story, 5 x 2-bay dwelling capped by a gable roof with shallow cornice returns displays a form typical of the Federal style. The center entry features a six-panel door with partial sidelights filled with geometric glass and the windows contain double-hung 6/6 sash that were installed in 2009. Twin brick chimneys rise from the back roof slope of the main house block. A two-story ell extends behind. Offset to the southeast of the ell there are two two-story wings. The wing closest to the house dates to 1928. Fenestration on its façade includes casement windows and a simple door capped by a shed door hood set on triangular braces. Extending to the southeast from this wing is a two-story addition constructed in 2010 with two arched garage doors facing the street and 6/6 double-hung windows above.

The view of the façade is screened by vegetation and a fieldstone wall runs along the front lot line.

## 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.*

According to Belmont Historian, Camilla French, this house was constructed in 1809 for George Prentiss II and his wife Susanna. The couple had married in 1804 and at first lived in the old family homestead with his parents. It is believed that this house was constructed after Susanna gave birth to their third child and only son, George III, in March 1809. This house was constructed just below the older house which was torn down in 1929. George Sr., whose father had been a housewright, and with uncles, brick makers, built the new house (French 1973). Deed records indicate that in 1812 George Prentiss sold the land to George Jr. (Book 231, Page 107). George Prentiss Jr. died in 1856. The house was then occupied by other family members. "Miss Prentiss" is shown as the owner on the 1889 map; G. Prentiss is shown as the owner on the 1898 map.

The house was sold by George A. Prentiss to Bruce Rogers in 1907 (Book 3279, Page 206). He apparently used it as a rental property as there is no record of him actually living there.

Dr. Joseph Aub and his wife, the former Elizabeth Cope, purchased the house in 1928 (Book 5256, Page 448). The couple had married in 1925. Dr. Aub was a physician specializing in cancer research and was also a professor at Harvard Medical School. Mrs. Aub was a graduate of the MIT School of Architecture and was the daughter of Walter Cope, the prominent Philadelphia architect. Soon after buying the property she removed a deteriorating side ell and sheds and replaced them with a wing and greenhouse. She also designed a spacious paneled library using the old Dutch oven fireplace as a focal point. The house was sold by Mrs. Aub's estate in 1978 to James and Marilyn Heskett who owned it until 1992 and added a sun room addition at the rear. Later owners included Robert Chernack (1992-2003). Colin and Melinda Beecroft purchased the house in 2003 and still own it today. They constructed a new two-story section to the east in 2010.

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2010 addition