

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

23-71	Boston North	Q	BLM.818
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Town/City: Belmont

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

Address: 111 School Street

Historic Name: Pearse House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling
Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: by 1898

Source: Stady map

Style/Form: Queen Anne

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: fieldstone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards, shingles

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
garage (ca. 1915)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
2000 – enclose side porch
2004 – new windows

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

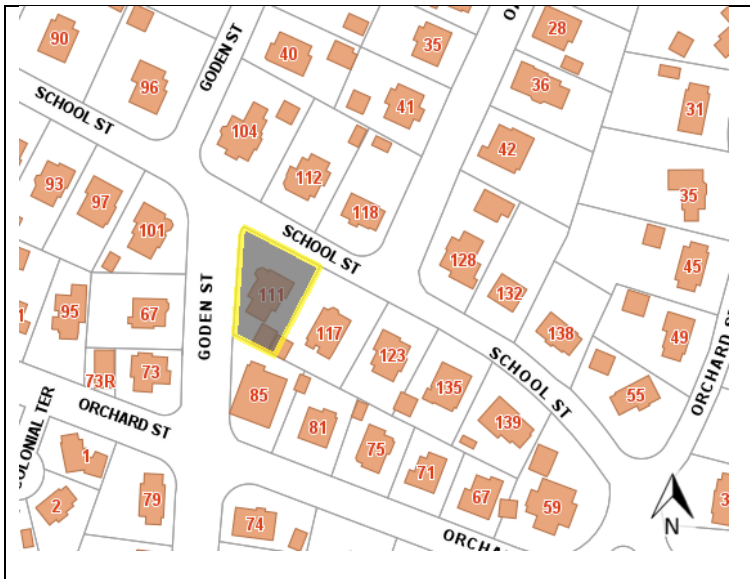
Acreage: less than 1/4 acre (8,927 SF)

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*): April 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

111 SCHOOL 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.

Located at the southeast corner of Goden Street and School Street, 111 School Street is a well-preserved example of the Queen Anne style displaying many of the style's salient characteristics. The steeply pitched roof is of irregular shape with an octagonal tower at the northwest corner, a cutaway bay window on the west side, a two-story projecting gable on the east and a polygonal bay resting on the single-story porch which extends across the façade to the east of the tower. Smaller gables include dormers on the tower roof and a gable wall dormer on the façade framed by brackets. Most of the dwelling is clapboarded with the exception of decorative shingles filling the various gables. The front porch is supported by Doric columns. Most of the window openings contain 1/1 sash. The attic level has several more decorative windows including fixed Queen Anne sash and leaded glass.

The house is set on a level corner lot with a front lawn and minimal foundation plantings. To the southeast of the house is a single car garage constructed of rusticated concrete blocks and capped by a hip roof. It was built between 1915 and 1922.

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 comprises Lot 74 of 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 had been developed by the time of the 1898 map. The earliest known owner is "Pearse" who is indicated as the owner on the 1898 Stadly map. No further information was found concerning this individual. D. Frank Lord was living here in 1907. Elizabeth Gill, a Boston widow, owned the house about 1909. It was purchased by Oscar and Nancy Moriarty in 1911 (Book 3613, Page 555). Jacques and Laura Reitmayer purchased the house in 1919 (Book 4318, Page 282). He was the president of the American Belgian Exporting Co. in Boston. Theresa Shea McBride bought the house in 1939 and the family owned it until 1989 when it was sold to Linda Fentiman and Arthur Levine (Book 6285, Page 245 & Book 9774, Page 346). Linda Fentiman sold the house to Deborah Benjamin in 1994 (Book 24786, Page 576). It is still owned by Deborah Benjamin Hill and Richard Hill today.

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* (2nd edition). Belmont: Belmont Historical Society, 2012. 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.

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible Eligible **only** in a historic district
- Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: **A** **B** **C** **D**

Criteria Considerations: **A** **B** **C** **D** **E** **F** **G**

Statement of Significance by Lisa Mausolf
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The house at 111 School Street appears to be eligible for the National Register as part of a potential Belmont Park historic district. It is significant locally under Criterion C as a good example of the Queen Anne style. The neighborhood retains a high level of integrity as a cohesive area of late 19th century residences in the Colonial Revival, Queen Anne and Shingle Styles. Under Criterion A, Belmont Park is significant as an early development of single family housing that reflects the suburbanization of the town as a result of its easy access to Boston. The development was laid out in 1894 and all of the lots had been developed by 1898.