

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

63-18

Boston  
North

AX

BLM.134

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

**Town/City:** Belmont

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

## Photograph



(view from Somerset Street)

**Address:** 96 Somerset Street

**Historic Name:** Holiday Farm Workers' Housing

**Uses:** Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1860

**Source:** maps

**Style/Form:** Gothic Revival/Stick

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

### Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
none

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

1960 – 1 story addition at rear

1995 – 25' x 16' addition at northwest

2000 – 10' x 19' addition at southwest

**Condition:** good

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

**Acreage:** 94,036 SF

**Setting:** rural

## 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

96 SOMERSET 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.*

This ca.1864 farmhouse is one of two extant outbuildings surviving from Holiday Farm (no longer standing). It is an unusual example of vernacular architecture that illustrates the support buildings of a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century working farm. While the main house was designed in the Italianate Style, this building blends the influence of the Gothic Revival and Stick Style. The 1 ½-story, 3 x 2-bay dwelling faces eastward. The building is clad in wood clapboards. The gable roof has overhanging eaves that display exposed rafters and purlins with a brick chimney centered on the ridge and twin gable wall dormers on the façade. The center entrance has a gable hood with incised ornament that rests on trusses. The flanking windows are capped by shed hoods resting on brackets (a detail which is also seen next door at 97 Somerset Street). A wing is offset to the north with a clipped gable roof. A series of additions were constructed to the rear in 1960, 1995 and 2000.

The main house of the Holiday Farm was removed many years ago, the greenhouses were razed in 1973 and the stable in 1991, leaving only this building and the former milkhouse (97 Somerset Street, BLM.133), from Holiday Farm.

## 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.*

In the 1860s Henry Clarke, a paper manufacturer, constructed Holiday Farm including an Italian Villa-style house which once stood on the site of the present 567 Concord Avenue, terraced gardens and greenhouses. This building served as housing for the farm workers. Holiday Farm was purchased by Edwin F. Atkins in 1891.

There is no indication in 20<sup>th</sup> century directories of who actually lived at 96 Somerset. Building Department records indicate that in 1960 a single-story addition was constructed to the rear of the house for W.H. Clafin. J.R. Abbot was the architect. In 1993 the property was conveyed by Helen Clafin's heirs to Anne Allen, the youngest of Helen's children (Book 23394, Page 171). After Anne Allen's death in 2015, it was conveyed to Helen Montero.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Ancestry.com.

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.

Flynn, Kay. Area form for Holiday Farm (BLM.AX), 1982.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA

Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1915, 1922, 1931, 1949.

Town of Belmont, Building Department files

U.S. Census, various dates.

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View of Rear elevation

Source: Assessors Records