

FORM B – BUILDING

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

63-18-A

Boston
North

AX

BLM.133

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

Town/City: Belmont

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

Photograph



Address: 97 Somerset Street

Historic Name: Holiday Farm Milkhouse

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: milkhouse

Date of Construction: ca. 1860

Source: maps

Style/Form:

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1973 – large five-room addition and attached garage

1982 – skylights, renovations

2013-2015 – new windows

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 18,975 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

97 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.

The oldest portion of this house was originally a milkhouse for Holiday Farm. Rectangular in plan, the original milkhouse is a single-story structure measuring 32' x 24', set on a brick foundation and clad in wood clapboards with simple cornerboards. It is oriented with its broad gable end to Somerset Street with eaves that overhang slightly and are without returns. A brick chimney rises from the ridge of the asphalt-shingled roof. There are five windows – a single window flanked by two pairs on the north gable end façade. All of the windows are capped by shed hoods resting on simple brackets (a detail also seen on 96 Somerset Street). Two windows without the shed-like hoods are located on the east elevation with the top of the windows extending to the eaves. The location of the original entrance to the building is not clear.

In 1973 a large addition was constructed to the south (rear) of the original cottage consisting of a single-story wing which connects to a taller garage building. The new additions are more than double the size of the original cottage. The fenestration on the new sections consist of picture windows and casements. The area in front of the house is informally landscaped with low stone walls and granite posts.

Although of historic interest for its associations with 19th century Holiday Farm, the integrity of the former milkhouse is greatly diminished by its conversion to residential use and the sizable modern additions constructed in 1973 as well as later alterations. The main house, stables and greenhouses are no longer extant, leaving only this building and a worker's cottage (96 Somerset Street, BLM.134) to convey the former historic property.

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 (on the site of the present 567 Concord Avenue), terraced gardens and greenhouses. This building served as a milkhouse for the farm. Holiday Farm was purchased by Edwin F. Atkins in 1891. At one time it was also part of the artists' colony that developed on Belmont Hill in the late 19th century. Noted local artist C. Scott White (1872-1965) lived and worked in the milkhouse beginning in the 1930s and remained here until his death in 1965. He was known for his paintings of Maine's land and seascapes.

The building has remained in the Atkins family until the 1970s. It was inherited by Helen Claflin from her mother Katherine Atkins. Mrs. Claflin conveyed the property to the present owners, Jan Montero and Helen Montero, in 1973 for \$15,500 (Book 12431, Page 588). The large rear addition was constructed at that time, designed by Lexington architects Day & Eatman.

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

Boston Globe, April 8, 1965 [obituary of C.S. White]

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.