

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

54-11	Boston North	BA	BLM.832
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Town/City: Belmont

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

Address: 28 Tyler Road

Historic Name: Isabel Whiting House

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

Date of Construction: 1950

Source: building permit

Style/Form: Ranch

Architect/Builder: Eleanor Raymond, architect

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: wood shingle, wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
1994 – rear addition

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 12,500 SF

Setting: neighborhood of 20th century residences near Belmont Hill School

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): November 2014

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

28 TYLER ROAD

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.

Designed in 1950, from the street, the Whiting House is a simple single-story Ranch house. It is clad in wood shingles and capped by an asphalt roof and displays a rectangular plan with a single car attached garage at the northeast end. The house is screened by a hedge along the street. A flagstone walk leads from the street to the recessed entrance which has a horizontal paned sidelight. The façade fenestration includes two paired 4/4 windows and several 2 x 2 units.

As is the case with many Eleanor Raymond designs, the rear elevation reveals an additional story of living space, concrete patio and sloping lawn. A small hip-roofed (1994) addition projects at the north end.

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 designed for Miss Isabel Whiting (1894-1979) by architect Eleanor Raymond. Isabel Whiting was born in Lowell, the daughter of Isaac and Edith Whiting. Her father was born in Wilton, New Hampshire, graduated from Harvard in 1881 and was in the grain and milk business. Isabel Whiting was a social worker. She purchased the land in 1950 (MCRD Book 7549, Page 161) and retained Eleanor Raymond to design the house. Miss Whiting sold the house to Henry and Charlotte Arthur in 1960 and moved to Cambridge where she lived the rest of her life.

Henry Arthur (1904-1993) was born in Gloversville, New York, graduated from Union College and received his master's and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard. He was chief economist at Swift & Company in the 1930s and in the late 1940s was chief of the Marshall Plan's program review division in Paris and was appointed to the Wage Stabilization Board during the Korean War. He joined the Harvard business school faculty in 1960 and was considered an expert on agribusiness and business ethics, retiring in 1970. Charlotte Arthur died in 1980 and in 1988 Henry married his second wife, Eunice Perry (Simm) Howe. Eunice Howe was born in Belmont in 1918 and attended Boston University School of Law, served in the Massachusetts Attorney General's office, served on numerous Massachusetts commissions and councils and was a Republican Party activist. Ms. Howe donated her papers to Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe. She continues to own the house today.

This is one of five houses in Belmont that were designed by architect Eleanor Raymond. Two of the houses have been demolished - Raymond House (1931) and Meyer House, 240 Somerset Street (1956), leaving only this house, the Miller House at 105 Juniper Road (1936) and the McCreary House, Kenmore Road (1956).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Betts, Richard B. *The Streets of Belmont and How they Were Named (2nd edition)*. Belmont: Belmont Historical Society, 2012.
Cole, Doris. *Eleanor Raymond, Architect*. Philadelphia: The Art Alliance Press, 1981.
Harvard University Library, Papers of Eunice Howe, 1939-1999.
Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA
New York Times, May 18, 1993 [obituary of Henry Arthur]
Town of Belmont, Building Department files.