

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

54-25	Boston North	BA	BLM.830
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Town/City: Belmont

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

Address: 7 Tyler Road

Historic Name: William B. & Elizabeth Thomas House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1941

Source: building permit

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Theodore G. Ames, architect

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: brick

Roof: slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
2008 – some replacement windows

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 18,750 SF

Setting: residential neighborhood of 20th century dwellings
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

7 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.

The Thomas House at 7 Tyler Road is a mid 20th century dwelling in a restrained and untraditional Colonial Revival style. The house is set above the street with a curved brick retaining wall enclosing the sloping front lawn and a flagstone and brick walk leading from the street to the front door. The two-story brick structure displays an L-shaped plan with a lesser hip-roofed wing to the northeast incorporating a two-car garage on the lower (street) level. The hip roof is sheathed in slate shingles with a large brick chimney and two hip dormers. The brick veneer incorporates a simple watertable and a stringcourse between the first and second floors as well as a dentil course. Flared copper awnings offer shelter above the main entry and the garage. Most of the windows now contain 8/8 double-hung sash. Some of the openings may have originally had casement units. A single story, flat-roofed sunporch with metal railing balustrade projects from the southwest end of the main house.

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 was one of the later houses erected in the Belmont Hill development and comprised Lot 2 of the 1925 plan. The land was purchased by William Besserer Thomas and his wife Mary Elizabeth in 1940. The couple had married in Summit County, Ohio in 1933 and both were teachers. The 1945 directory indicates that William B. Thomas was then 42 years old and retired. The house was sold by William Besserer Thomas' estate in 1982 to David and Margaret Pergola who still own it today.

The house was designed by architect Theodore G. Ames, who in 1940 was working for the Boston architectural firm of Griswold & Gulick. Theodore Gordon Ames (1898-1969) was born in St. Paul, Minnesota and received a A.B. from Harvard College and a S.B. in Mechanical Engineering from Harvard in 1922. He later received a M.Arch from Harvard in 1936. He was a veteran of World War I and during World War II served as a lieutenant colonel in the Army Air Corps in the European Theater and was awarded the British O.B.E. After the war became a partner at the newly formed Griswold, Boyden, Wylde and Ames in 1946 and was there until 1959. Ames later practiced alone and moved to Belmont in 1953. He lived at 741 Concord Avenue until his death in 1969.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Belmont Citizen, Aug. 14, 1969 [obituary of Theodore Ames].

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.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA

Robbins, Samuel Dowse, ed. *Who's Who in Belmont*. Belmont: Belmont Historical Society, 1972.

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

Town of Belmont, Building Department files.

U.S. Census, various dates