

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

54-9	Boston North	BA	BLM.831
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Town/City: Belmont

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

Photograph



Address: 8 Tyler Road

Historic Name: Walter Gaskill House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1928

Source: building permit

Style/Form: Shingle/Craftsman

Architect/Builder: Robert T. Walker, architect

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: wood shingles

Roof: slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

2008 – slate roof installed replacing shingles

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 21,000 SF

Setting: neighborhood of early 20th century architect-designed residences on generous lots

Locus Map



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): November 2014

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

8 TYLER ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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 corner of Prospect Street and Tyler Road, 8 Tyler Road is a rambling two-story residence constructed in 1928. Sheathed in wood shingles with a belt course between the stories, the side-gabled dwelling has various cross gables, pents, and overhangs and a tall exterior brick chimney punctuates the front gable. In 2011 a slate roof was installed; the roof was originally covered in asbestos shingles. An arched doorhood on brackets shelters the glass-and-panel front door; multi-light partial sidelights flank the sides of the entrance. Windows include double-hung 6/6 and 4/4 sash as well as multi-light casements and hip-roofed dormers.

The informally-landscaped property has a flagstone front walk leading to the front door from Tyler Road. A two-car, gablefront garage with attached toolhouse faces Prospect Street. Like the main house, it is sheathed in wood shingles.

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.

The house at 8 Tyler Road is located within the second phase of development of the Belmont Hill Company. In 1918 Henry O. Underwood formed the Company with other prominent local residents. They bought land on Belmont Hill with a goal of developing it slowly, in the way they thought was in the best interest of the town. In April 1925 a second area was developed when Company trustees George Prentiss and Arthur Fletcher laid out the J.Varnum Fletcher property on Clinton Street and parts of the George Prentiss and George Lawrence properties off of Prospect Street. Buildings were constructed in the 1920s and 1930s.

Walter Gaskill was granted a building permit in 1928 for the construction of the house; the architect was Robert T. Walker of Boston. Walter W. Gaskill (1886-1955) was born in Colorado and graduated from Harvard in 1908. He worked as an electrical engineer and lived here with his wife Dorothy, two daughters and a maid (1940 Census). The couple was still living here in 1955.

The house was owned by Mitt and Ann Romney from 1972 until 1989. Later owners included David Stark and Susan Stafford (1989-1994) and Burton and Kathleen Sheppard from 1994 to 2003. The house was purchased by Christian and Pascale Gras in 2003.

The architect, Robert Turner Walker (1867-1931), graduated from M.I.T. in 1890. In 1903 he was working as a draftsman for A.W. Longfellow, Jr. In 1916 Walker won the Rotch Traveling Scholarship which funded two years of travel abroad. No other information was found concerning Walker's works. Walker died in 1931.

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