

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

9-154	Boston North	CB	BLM.173
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**Town/City:** Belmont

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Payson Park

**Address:** 275 Washington Street

**Historic Name:** Herbert F. Shaw House

**Uses:** Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** 1879

**Source:** *Belmont Hist. Soc. Newsletter* March 1982

**Style/Form:**

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: not visible

Wall/Trim: aluminum siding

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
none

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

1885 – south wing

date? – siding, new windows

1988 – large two-story addition to southeast of gablefront, wing at southwest corner rebuilt, new front porch

**Condition:** fair (due to siding)

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

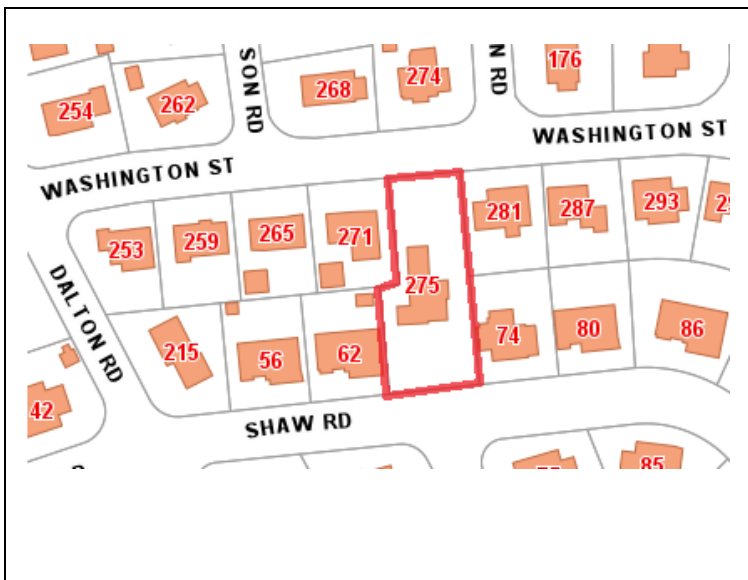
**Acreage:** 12,934 SF

**Setting:** surviving older farmhouse set back from street in 20<sup>th</sup> century neighborhood

## Photograph



## Locus Map (north at top)



**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Belmont Historic District Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): October 2016

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

275 WASHINGTON STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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 house at 275 Washington Street is a late 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse which has seen various alterations and additions in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. It originally consisted of a two-story, 3 x 1-bay main house (1879) with an entrance centered on the east elevation and a 1 ½-story wing (about 1885) extending to the south. Both sections of the building originally had simple door hoods and 2/2 windows. The building is sheathed in siding, all of the windows have been replaced with 1/1 sash and the chimney has been removed. A large two-story addition was constructed in 1988 projecting from what was the rear wing façade and a new front porch was constructed. At the same time a rear wing was removed and rebuilt. Due to the extent of the 1988 additions the original character of the modest farmhouse is no longer apparent.

## 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.*

Surrounded by mid-20<sup>th</sup> century development, this farmhouse is a reminder of the importance of market gardening to the local economy in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. As stated in the previous (1982) inventory form, market gardening had replaced subsistence farming as a way of life by the time the railroad was cut through from Boston to Fitchburg in 1843. In September 1874 Herbert F. Shaw bought 12.5 acres of farm land from the heirs of Josiah Bright (see 306 Washington Street, BLM.173), making this the last market garden to be developed in this part of Belmont. Other farms continued to expand during the period but no other new enterprises were begun after 1875.

There is no house on the site at the time of the 1875 Beers map. According to Holt family history, the house was built in 1879. In 1880 Herbert Shaw (1852-1889) married Mary Louise Houghton and brought her to live at 275 Washington Street. A south wing was added about 1885. The house is shown on the 1889 map with a large attached barn to the house. Herbert Shaw died in 1889, leaving four children and a twelve-acre farm. Mrs. Shaw continued to run the business, growing various vegetables for the Boston market. She married Rollin L. Holt in 1906 and they lived here several years before buying the King House at 232 Washington Street in 1912. The house at 275 Washington Street was occupied by various Shaw children after 1912 including Miss Clara Shaw from 1912 to about 1922 and Frederick Shaw, who was also a market gardener. By the 1930s the house was being rented out to various non-family members.

The 1931 Sanborn map shows six long greenhouses extending east of the house all the way to Grove Street. In September 1937 the Shaw Estate filed for a building permit to demolish the greenhouses, boiler room, wash shed and the one hundred foot high brick stack. About 1940 the surrounding land was subdivided for sale as house lots. The house at 275 Washington Street left the Shaw family in 1946 when it was sold to John and Margaret Morrison (Book 6952, Page 518). The remaining barn on the property was demolished by the Morrises in 1954. In 1973 it was conveyed to Murdock and Janet Morrison who sold it in 1981 to Andrew and Elizabeth Hahn.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Photo of house in 1982

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BELMONT

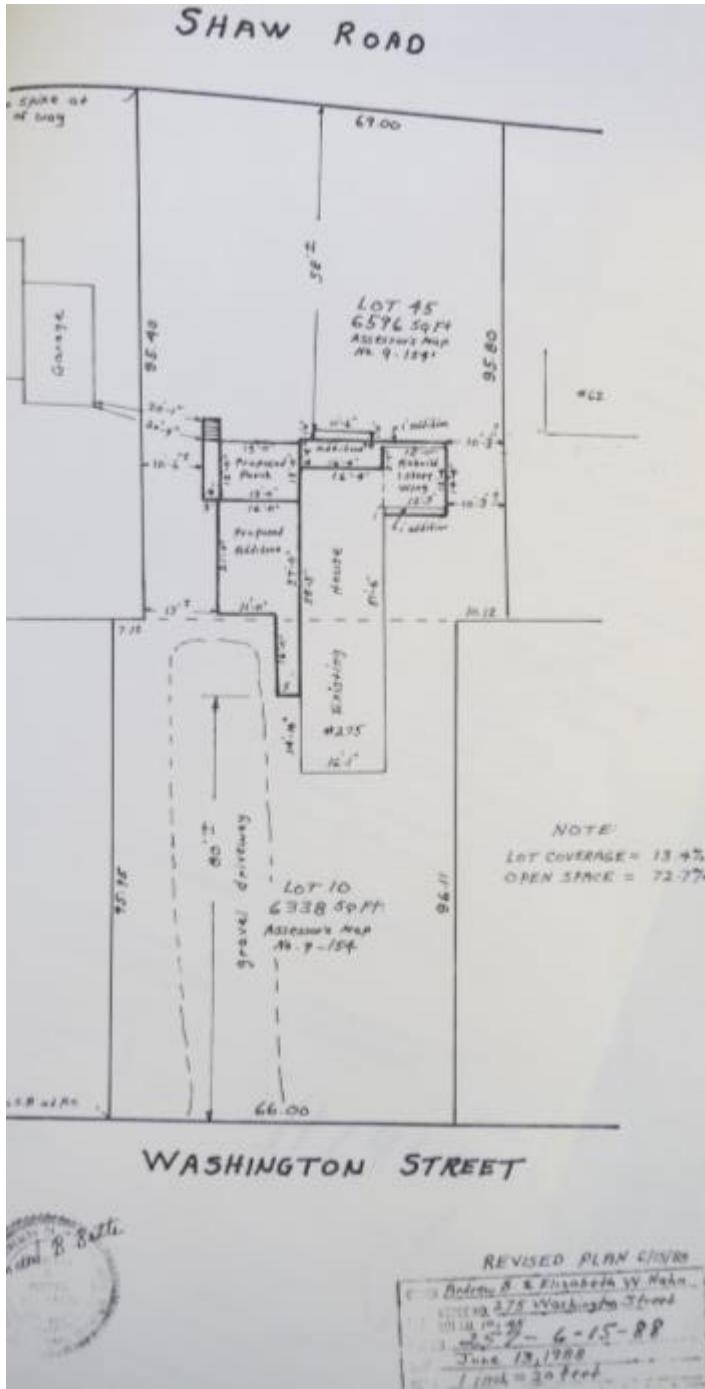
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1988 Alterations

Source: Building Department files