

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

20-77	Boston North	Y	BLM.58
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Town/City: Belmont

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



Address: 153 Watson Road

Historic Name: Frederick Bright House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1874

Source: Betts, p. 101

Style/Form: Greek Revival/Italianate

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: not visible

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1926 – main house block moved here, sunporch added

1932 – enlarged sunporch

2011 – two story addition to south replaces previous single-story section

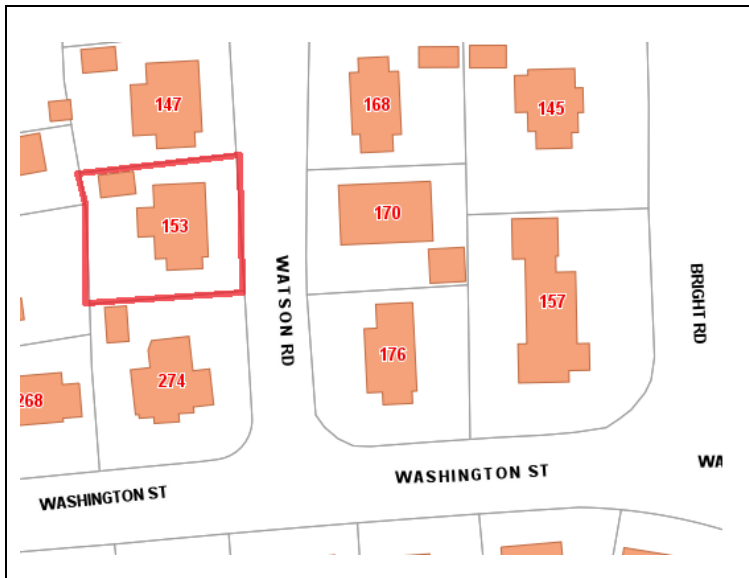
Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:** 1926

Acreage: 5,882 SF

Setting: located in neighborhood of closely spaced early 20th century homes

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

153 WATSON ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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.

Constructed in 1874, the Bright House at 153 Watson Road is an example of a late Greek Revival style farmhouse which also displays the influence of the Italianate style. The 2 ½-story, 5 x 2-bay dwelling is clad in wood clapboards with paneled corner pilasters and overhanging eaves that display deep returns. The center entrance is capped by a simple entablature and is flanked by full sidelights. Most of the window openings are rectangular and contain double-hung 6/6 sash with simple molded surrounds. There are a pair of arched window openings at the top of each gable. The small gables on the front roof slope are a later addition.

Sanborn maps indicate that the Bright House originally faced south and had a single-story porch spanning the façade, a rear single story ell and a bay window on the west gable end. When the house was moved to its present location a sunporch was added on the rear elevation and a single-story addition was constructed on the south gable end, punctuated by a large brick exterior chimney. In 2011 the existing single-story section was removed down to its framing and a two-story addition was constructed.

A driveway extends to the north of the house, terminating at a single-car gable garage constructed in 1926 and enlarged in 1956.

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.

What is now 153 Watson Road was built by Frederick Bright in 1874 and was originally oriented to face Washington Street (it was known as 280 Washington Street prior to its move in the 1920s). The Bright family were early leaders in the ice industry, active in town affairs and large scale market gardeners. Family patriarch Henry Bright, Jr. had settled at what is now the corner of Belmont and School Streets in 1630. Frederick Bright (1820-1909), the builder of this house, was a Selectman in 1867-8 and a successful market gardener. He lived in the house until his death.

Fred Bright's 13-acre property bounded by Washington Street, Bright Road and Concord Avenue was subsequently purchased by local realtor Louis B. Gale (1890-1941). The Bright House was turned and moved a short distance and sat on Lot 54A on Plan 2 of the Bright and Richardson subdivision.

Louis Gale sold the land with building to Mary Hopkins, wife of Lawrence in May 1928 (Book 5234, Page 519). Dr. Lawrence T. Hopkins was a physician with an office on Trapelo Road. At the time of the 1930 Census the couple was living here with their sons Philip and Bruce. The Hopkins only lived here a few years before selling the property in 1934 (Book 5846, Page 118). The house was owned briefly by Edward and Beatrice Brooks and by Jennie Worth before it was purchased by William Kidder in 1937 (Book 6139, Page 568). Kidder was a Boston yarn manufacturer and lived here with his wife Ora and two sons. The house was sold to Hugh Price and Eileen McDonagh Price in 1971 and is still owned by Eileen McDonagh today.

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Lucas, Nora. Inventory form for 153 Watson Road (BLM.58), 1982.

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