

FORM A - AREA

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

18-1 thru 5	Boston North	R	
-------------	-----------------	---	--

Town/City: Belmont

Place (*neighborhood or village*):
Belmont Park

Name of Area: Colonial Terrace

Present Use: residential

Construction Dates or Period: 1916

Overall Condition: good

Major Intrusions and Alterations:
aluminum/vinyl siding

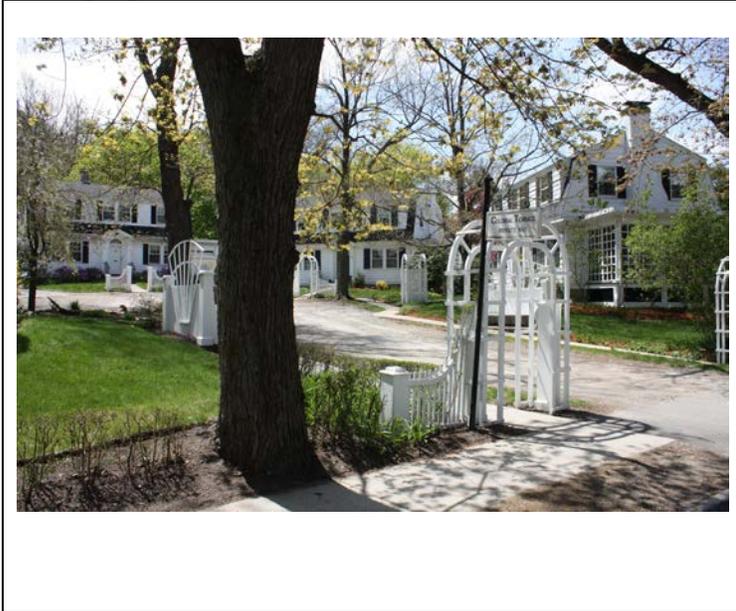
Acreage: 27,362 SF

Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Comm.

Date (*month/year*): May 2014

Photograph



Locus Map (north at top)



see continuation sheet

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

COLONIAL TERRACE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

R	
---	--

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, structural and landscape features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

Colonial Terrace consists of five identical two-story Dutch Colonial houses arranged around a small cul-de-sac accessed from the south side of Orchard Street. The houses were originally clad in wide clapboards although several are now covered in vinyl siding. Each is capped by a gambrel roof with front and rear shed dormers. Centered on the five-bay facade of each house, the front door features a Colonial Revival surround with pilasters supporting a broken pediment containing a semicircular fanlight. Windows contain double-hung 6/6 windows and originally had wooden shutters. Attached to one end of each house is a single-story porch with Doric columns; several have been enclosed. The houses have seen varying degrees of minor alteration including additions and attached garages. The house at 3 Colonial Terrace has a detached concrete block garage.

The small development retains much of its original site design. Colonial Terrace remains a gravel road and a concrete sidewalk extends around the cul-de-sac with two wooden arbor arches at Orchard Street and matching arches in front of each house. The current arbors are modern replacements. The circular space at the center of the cul-de-sac is common space and contains a stone well with hip roof. Two original wooden benches with trellises are located on concrete pads near Orchard Street. Each of the five lots contains between 3,800 and 6,300 square feet.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Explain historical development of the area. Discuss how this relates to the historical development of the community.

This early 20th century subdivision was laid out in 1915 on what had been three sixty-foot lots (lots 59, 60 and 61) in William Lowe's 1894 Belmont Park subdivision (Plan Book 87, Plan 7). The three lots were combined and subdivided into five smaller lots arranged around a circle at the end of a short street extending from Orchard Street (Plan Book 236, Plan 47). In 1916 the Board of Survey approved Colonial Terrace. Photographs of the development of five houses by architect Victor Wigglesworth appeared in the national publication, *The Builder's Journal*, in 1920 and was touted as "a good example of development upon a small inside plot".

At the time of the 1920 Census, three of the five houses were owner-occupied. Wigglesworth himself lived at 4 Colonial Terrace while Congregational Church minister, Rev. Edwin Pressey, owned and occupied #3. The owner and resident of 5 Colonial Terrace was Ralph Leroy Harlow, who worked in the dye industry. Winthrop Jameson, an auto salesman, rented #1, and #2 was rented to Robert Campbell, a paint manufacturer. In 1939 the houses were occupied by William Taggart, chemist (#1); Hunter McKay, engineer (#2); Roland Rand, solicitor (#3); Rudolph Toll, merchant (#4) and Marion Steurerwald, high school teacher (#5).

The designer of the subdivision, Victor Hugo Wigglesworth (1885-1958), was born in Hyde Park, Massachusetts in 1885. Nothing is known about his educational background other than the 1940 Census indicates that the highest level of schooling he received was the first year of high school. In 1910 he was living with his mother in Chelsea and the local directory lists him as an architect. He and his brother Charles appear to have briefly formed a partnership and are credited with the design of several Colonial Revival buildings in Chelsea including buildings on Bellingham Square and the Chelsea Day Nursery.

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

COLONIAL TERRACE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

R	
---	--

Victor Wigglesworth married Mary Winthrop Shackford on May 25, 1916 and the houses on Colonial Terrace were constructed that same year. He and his wife lived at #4 Colonial Terrace for several years. In addition to Colonial Terrace, Wigglesworth also designed other dwellings in Belmont including 24 Cedar Road (1913), a Prairie Style dwelling, 20 Highland Road (1915), a house for his own use at 214 Common Street (1922, no longer extant), another across the street (217 Common Street, no longer extant) and several houses nearby on Slade Street including 223-225 Slade Street, 234 Slade Street, 256 Slade Street, and another house for himself at 21 Knox Road (no longer extant). Many of the buildings he designed were of concrete, fireproof construction. Examples of his work were published in a number of early 20th century journals including *Carpentry and Building*, *The Builder's Journal* and *Concrete*. In 1929 Wigglesworth was awarded a patent for a tie for binding spaced walls together. The Common and Slade Street houses are credited to Bates & Wigglesworth, Architects and Engineers. Nothing is known about his partner, Bates.

It appears that Wigglesworth did not always primarily work as an architect. Draft records indicate that in 1917 he was chief draftsman for the John H. Hammond Jr. Cruft Laboratory in Cambridge and at the time of World War II he was an engineer for Fay Spofford and Thorndike in Boston. Wigglesworth was still living in Belmont in 1955 but died in Newburgh, New York in 1958.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Ancestry.com

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.

Lucas, Nora. Area Form for Colonial Terrace (BLM.R), 1982.

Massachusetts Historical Commission, MACRIS database.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA

"A Suburban Small Group Building Project", *The Builder's Journal*, vol. 1, 1920.

Wigglesworth, Victor H. "Monolithic Concrete Architecture: With Special Reference to a House on Common Street, Belmont, Mass.", *Concrete*, August 1922.

U.S. Census, various dates.

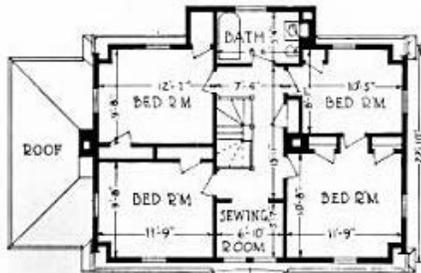
R

A Suburban Small Group Building Project

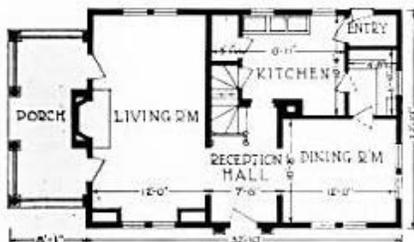
Economy in land and building cost gained that offsets present difficulties



This group of five houses is located in Belmont, Mass., and is a good example of development upon a small inside plot. A general view and plot plan are opposite Victor Wigglesworth, Architect



Second Floor Plan



First Floor Plan



Source: *The Builder's Journal*, 1920

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

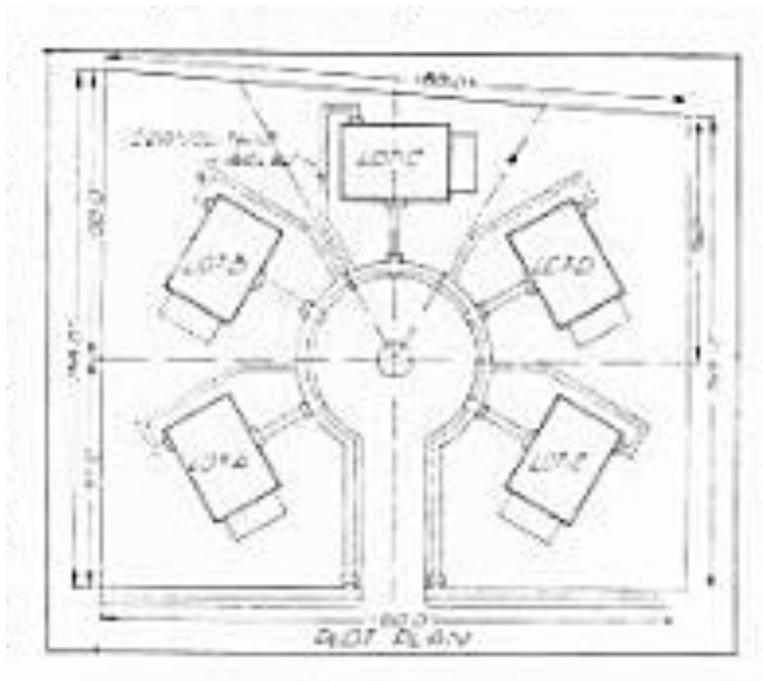
BELMONT

COLONIAL TERRACE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area Letter Form Nos.

R	
---	--



Source: *The Builder's Journal*, 1920

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

COLONIAL TERRACE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

R	
---	--



4 & 5 Colonial Terrace



5 Colonial Terrace

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

COLONIAL TERRACE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area Letter Form Nos.

R	
---	--



Bench in front of 1 Colonial Terrace



Wishing Well in front of 5 Colonial Terrace

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

COLONIAL TERRACE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area Letter Form Nos.

R	
---	--

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible Eligible **only** in a historic district
 Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of Significance by Lisa Mausolf
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

Colonial Terrace is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, Architecture, as a locally significant district. Constructed in 1916 according to designs by local architect Victor Wigglesworth, it is a fairly unique example of early 20th century suburban residential design, consisting of five identical Dutch Colonial houses arranged around a small cul-de-sac, accented by wooden arbor arches, wooden benches and a wishing well. It reflects the early 20th century interest in small, economical homes and appeared in a national publication, *The Builder's Journal*, in 1920.