

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

42-68	Boston North		BLM.837
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Town/City: Belmont

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 97 Waterhouse Road

Historic Name: Winn Brook School

Uses: Present: school

Original: school

Date of Construction: 1934

Source: Town Reports

Style/Form: Georgian Revival

Architect/Builder: Wadsworth & Smith (1934);
Giles M. Smith (1941 add.); Harry Korslund (1956 add.)

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: brick, concrete

Roof: tar

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
1941 – addition (four classrooms)
1956 - addition
1987-1989 – renovation/additions

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 7.75 acres

Setting: residential neighborhood

Photograph



Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): October 2014

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

97 WATERHOUSE ROAD

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 Winn Brook School consists of a symmetrical Georgian Revival brick school constructed in 1934 flanked by additions constructed in 1941, 1956 and 1987. The original 1934 façade is two stories tall and faces east and is nineteen bays across with the central five bays capped by a decorative parapet topped by copper knobs on pedestals. The brick building is set above a raised concrete foundation and displays contrasting stone/concrete trim including a decorative door surround at the main entry, pilasters, bands above the second floor windows, second story window sills, keystones above the window openings and parapet details including a rectangular band inscribed "WINN BROOK SCHOOL" and two circular medallions with bas reliefs of scrolls and torches. The center entrance is emphasized by a concrete door surround with entablature and the window above has a concrete surround. Windows on the building contain replacement double-hung 12/12 sash and are capped by flat arch brick lintels. The two-story 1941 addition projects at the south end of the original building and has a windowless east façade and plain rectangular openings on the south side with 1/1 sash and concrete sills. To the south of this is the single-story 1956 addition which is contemporary in design with large classroom windows facing Waterhouse Road and Sherman Street that extend to the overhanging eaves with large panes of glass over lower hopper windows. The entries on the 1956 addition are marked by full height brick projecting pylons.

To the north of the original addition is another two-story simple brick addition (also 1941?) and the more modern brick and concrete 1987 addition. A modern two-story addition (1987) with angled corners and central gable obscures part of the original rear (west) elevation.

To the west of the school are parking areas, playing fields and a playground.

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 original Winn Brook School was built in 1934 as a 12 room grade school with an original capacity of 350 students. The land adjacent to the Belmont Garden Company was acquired by eminent domain in 1928. The school was designed by the Boston architectural firm of Wadsworth & Smith, a successor to Bigelow, Wadsworth, Hubbard, and Smith which underwent several iterations after the death of Henry Forbes Bigelow in 1929. Philip Wadsworth (1881-1961) graduated from Harvard in 1902 after which he attended MIT and studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris in 1906 and 1907. Giles Milton Smith (1886-1950) attended Cornell University and was a Belmont resident who lived at 129 Leonard Street.

Four classrooms were added in 1941. Giles M. Smith served as the architect for the addition and the construction contract was awarded to the Steed-Barber Corporation of Boston. Giles Milton Smith was a local resident who lived at 129 Leonard Street. He designed a number of local residences, several local banks for Harvard Trust (see 63 Trapelo Road), additions to the Butler and Kendall Schools and the First Church of Christ Scientist in Cambridge. He was a partner in the architectural firm of Bigelow, Wadsworth, Hubbard, and Smith which later (1929) became Wadsworth, Hubbard, and Smith.

Another addition to the school was made in 1956 according to designs by architect Harry J. Korslund of Norwood. Korslund (1896-1978) graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1920 and received his Masters degree in Architecture from Harvard in 1925. He had his own office from 1937 until 1957 when he formed the firm of Korlund, LeNormand and Quann. The firm specialized in school architecture and among their designs was that for Newton South High School in 1957 and for Belmont High School in 1968.

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Construction on the renovation of Winn Brook School began in 1987 and was completed in March 1989. The project consisted of 18 enlarged classrooms for kindergarten through fifth grade children as well as additional spaces for art, music, and science, individualized instruction and early childhood education. A 5,000 square foot gymnasium and a 3,000 square foot library were also added. The school was rededicated on April 2, 1989.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

American Institute of Architects. *American Architects Directory*, 1956, 1962, 1970.

Belmont Citizen, May 30, 1941.

Belmont Historical Society. *Images of America: Belmont*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2000.

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.



1956 addition

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Undated postcard of original 1934 school

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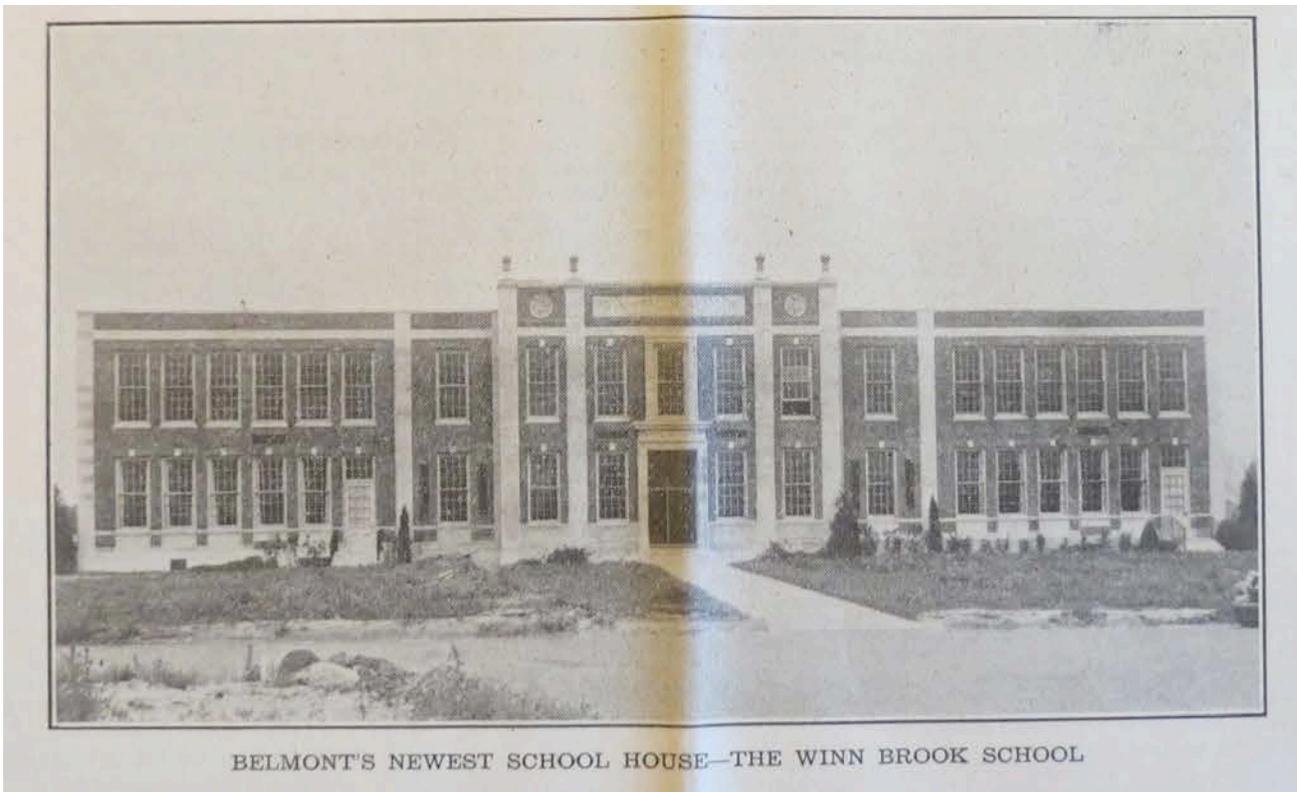
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Belmont Citizen, September 6, 1935