

FORM B - BUILDING

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Assessor's number

127/437 5-10

UBGS Quad

Newton

Area(s)

Form Number

Bkl.

1390A

BKL 1390

Town Brookline

Place (neighborhood or village) Upper Boylston

Address 910 Boylston Street-Building A

Historic Name Christian Science Benevolent Assn.

Uses Present Sanatorium/hospital

Original Sanatorium/hospital

Date of Construction 1918/1923/1926

Source Building permit

Style/Form Jacobethan

Architect/Builder Clarence T. McFarland/

Arthur Bowditch (1926)

Exterior Material:

Foundation concrete

Wall/Trim brick & limestone

Roof slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures see attached sheets

Major Alterations (with date) 1923-dining room

addition in rear--C. McFarland; 1926-residence/auditorium/chapel-Arthur Bowditch

Condition good

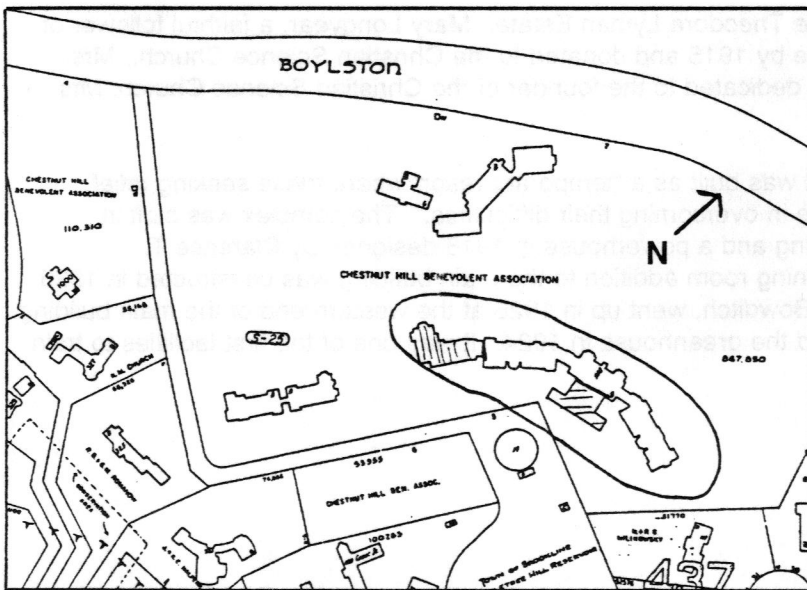
Moved ☐ no ☐ yes Date

Acres 867,850 s.f.

Setting Buildings are spread out over a large hilly

estate, approached by a long winding drive. Main

buildings are on top of hill, screened by hill and trees.



RECEIVED

DEC 01 1995

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Recorded by Hardwicke/Benka/Reed

Organization Brookline Preservation Commission

Date (month/day/year) Summer 1995

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The main building sits atop the hill with a center section and wings off to both sides. It is a complex building with many sections built at various times--the main block and wings (1918), the dining room at the rear (1923) and the dorm/auditorium (1926) at the western end. All the parts were designed by McFarland, except the dorm/auditorium which was constructed by Arthur Bowditch. They are all in the same style with varying amounts of detail.

The main three story block has a center entrance with a projecting two story crenelated entrance pavilion and a rounded Flemish gable. There is an organic stringcourse and decorative downspouts. Two other three story projections are at either end of this block. These projections have two story limestone bay windows with multipaned windows and a decorative circular balustrade. The pitch roof contains dormers. The majority of the windows in this section, as in the other sections, are surrounded by limestone and have multipaned transoms. A narrow cupola sits on the roof ridge and two decorative chimneys are at each end of this section.

The two projecting wings are two and one-half stories with similar dormers and banks of windows. There are wall dormers and limestone water tables. There is not as much detail as the main front block and the rear dining room ell. The east end of the east wing has a three story off-center projecting crenelated entrance tower. The rear facades of the wings have projecting gables with polygonal projections and terraces and balustrades with second story recesses.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ *see continuation sheet*

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.

Located on Singletree Hill, this property once belonged to the Theodore Lyman Estate. Mary Longyear, a faithful follower of Mary Baker Eddy, purchased the land from the Lyman Estate by 1915 and donated to the Christian Science Church. Mrs. Longyear's home at 120 Seaver Street has been a museum dedicated to the founder of the Christian Science Church, Mrs. Eddy.

The facility located atop the hill opened in October 1919 and was built as a "temporary resort where those seeking relief through Christian Science may go to find practical assistance in overcoming their difficulties." The complex was built in stages. The first buildings to be erected were the main building and a powerhouse in 1918 designed by Clarence T. McFarland. The other buildings followed in succession. A dining room addition to the main building was constructed in 1923 and a lounge and auditorium/chapel, designed by Arthur H. Bowditch, went up in 1926 at the western end of the main building. The laundry, power house and garage were built in 1921 and the greenhouse in 1924. It was one of the first facilities to train Christian Scientist nurse practitioners in the country.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Permits-1918 to 1930

Maps-1855, 1855

Atlas-1900 to 1919

Tax lists-1900-1918

Articles in clipping file under hospital

Preservation Commission narrative/files on Boylston Street and Singletree Hill

☐ **Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.**

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary of State, Boston

Community: Brookline	Form No: Bkl.1390A
Property Name: CHBA-910 Boylston Street	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, continued

The dorm/auditorium wing is similar in style to the main block. The 1926 addition is joined to the west wing by a one story connector. The connector flows easily into the auditorium which is set off and resembles an English parish church. The front facade has a double door entrance with hood molding and is reached by stone balustraded steps. The west facade has two large banks of 3 transomed windows. It is two story in front and one and one-half story in the rear (due to the grade change) with leaded triple windows under labels and attached buttresses.

The dining room extension behind the main block presents an interesting and complex aspect, evoking a medieval village. The dining room itself is a flat one story structure with a crenelated parapet. The leaded windows are encased in limestone with round headed transoms. A stringcourse supported by coat-of-arms bosses surrounds it.

The dining room wing flows into a one story at grade with a service section which has crenelation. buttresses, a bank of rounded leaded glass windows surrounded by limestone. At one junction of this complex, a square tower attached to a polygonal tower with an open cupola. The roof of the cupola is an interesting chevron design. Another remarkable element of this section are the gutters and downspouts--the rectangular copper downspouts are reminiscent of a medieval building with turrets at the corners, a plain and a decorated stringcourse and a parapet. In the center is a lattice-work circle enclosed in a rectangle. This box sits atop two circular pipes with a cross design. There are other decorative, but less elaborate downspouts scattered throughout the complex.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Office of the Secretary of State, Boston

Community: Brookline	Form No: Bkl. 1390A
Property Name: 910 Boylston Street-CHBA	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, continuation

Clarence T. McFarland, the main architect, also designed several residences on Gardner Road (#80-1925; #112-1921 and #150-1922/25). He also designed #48 Hawes in 1918. In 1923, the firm McFarland & Laurie designed the houses on Tappan Street from #244 to #302. Arthur Bowditch, designer of the auditorium section, lived on Maple Street in Brookline and designed several houses in Brookline.

Spanning the rise between Boylston Street and Heath Street, Singletree Hill (so named for the single tree which stood on the summit during the early days of the Massachusetts Bay Colony-- this tree was easily seen by sailors entering Boston Harbor and was a well-known landmark) contained several large estates by the 1880's belonging the Lymans, the Coolidges, the Cabots, and the Paines. These have been all developed into single family lots and commercial areas. One major parcel does remain--the Chestnut Hill Benevolent Society compound, once part of the Theodore Lyman estate. The other sections of the estate became the commercial strip from #828 to #850 as well as the section of Heath from Reservoir Road past Lyman, Lyman Road and Cutler Lane. Other residents of Single tree Hill included the J. Randolph Coolidge family and the Walter Channing Cabot family.

The Honorable Theodore Lyman owned the property which now consists of #910 Boylston, the Chestnut Hill Benevolent Society. The site previously belonged to Jonathan Mason, lawyer and statesman; he was a United States Senator from 1800 to 1803. In the early 19th century the area was known as Mason's Hill. Theodore Lyman Sr., bought the property in 1841 and commissioned the architect Richard Upjohn to design a new house for the site. The original house, built in 1842, stood approximately where #77 Cutler Lane stands. It originally was off Reservoir Road, then Pound Lane. The sweeping entrance of arching elms and stately pines led up to an Italianate villa. Lyman was a philanthropist, author, legislator, and Mayor of Boston from 1834 to 1836. His son Theodore Lyman, Jr., was a soldier, naturalist, a representative to Congress, fish commissioner, and trustee of the Peabody Education Fund. He was born in Waltham in 1833 to parents Theodore and Mary E. (Henderson) Lyman. Theodore, Jr., graduated from Harvard, A.B. 1855 and S.B. 1858. After serving as an assistant at the Harvard University Museum, Lyman studied in Europe from 1861-1863 before returning home to serve with Gen. George Mead in the Civil War. After he was mustered out in 1865, he returned to his home in Brookline. Among his activities included the Massachusetts Fish Commissioner from 1865-1882. From 1863-85 he represented the 9th Mass. District in Congress. He was an Overseer of Harvard; and fellow of the National Academy of Arts & Sciences; trustee of the Peabody Museum of Archeology and of the Mass. State Reform School. Lyman married Elizabeth Russell, daughter of George R. and Sarah Shaw Russell in 1856 and died in Nahant on September 9, 1897. While the property for the Christian Science Benevolent Society was sold off c. 1918, the majority of the estate remained in the family until 1955 when it became the property of the Old Colony Trust. The main house was razed at this time. The other out buildings disappeared over the next few years. The original estate included all the properties on Lyman Road and Cutler Lane as well as #822, #824-826, #830, #850, #910 Boylston Street, #193 Cabot Street, and #155, and #171 Heath Street. The original Heath School, designed by Paul Schulz, was located on this site from 1854 (land then belonged to S. B. Bass) to 1902 when the new Heath School opened on Eliot Street. The F. Manton Wakefield designed Manual Training School, built in 1897 was located here before it was bought and moved to the rear of the St. Lawrence Church at #774 Boylston Street (facing Reservoir Road) and used as a Parish House. The old Manual Training School building was torn down in the 1980's.

BKL.1390

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary of State, Boston

Community: Brookline	Form No: Bkl. 1390
Property Name: Chestnut Hill Benevolent Assn.	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.



Rear Building A.



Building A-
Auditorium/Chapel

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area

Form no.

127/137

5-10

Town BrooklineAddress 910 Boylston StreetHistoric Name Christian ScienceBenevolent AssociationUse: Original SanitoriumPresent SameOwnership: ☐ Private individual
☒ Private organization Christian Science Benevolent Ass'nPublic Original owner Same

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1918Source Brookline Building PermitStyle JacobethanArchitect Clarence T. McFarlandExterior wall fabric BrickOutbuildings Greenhouse, nurses' facilities and utility building.Major alterations (with dates)

1923 - Dining room addition.

1924 - Greenhouse

1919 - Garage, powerhouse & laundry.

1926 - Nurses' dormitory, lounge and auditorium.

Moved Date Approx. acreage 867,850 sq. ft.Recorded by Carla BenkaOrganization BHCDate May 1980Setting Buildings are spread out over large estate, approached by long winding drive.Main buildings are on top of hill, screened by large trees and wooded area

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

The main building as well as the nurses' training building (dormitory) were designed by Clarence McFarland in the Jacobethan style, characterized by the use of brick with limestone trim, gables with elbows, leaded glass windows of varying sizes with stone mullions, crests and coats-of-arms, and castellations. There are several Jacobethan style homes in Brookline; see, for example, #514 Warren Street, 291 Buckminster Road, 62 and 294 Buckminster Road, 271 Clinton, 75 Willard, and 101 Dean Roads.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

The Christian Science Benevolent Association, established by Boston's First Church of Christ, Scientist, is located at 910 Boylston Street, on Single Tree Hill, so named for the single tree which stood on the summit during the early days of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. This tree was easily seen by sailors entering Boston harbor and became a well known landmark.

Built on land which once belonged to Theodore Lyman, the complex of buildings, including the main sanatorium, one dormitory, and powerhouse, was designed by Clarence McFarland in 1918. The land had been donated to the Christian Science Church by Mary Longyear, a faithful follower of Mary Baker Eddy. The Longyear's home at 120 Seaver Street is now a museum dedicated to the study of the Christian Science Church and its founder, Mrs. Eddy. Mrs Longyear purchased the land from the trustees of the Lyman Estate by 1915; the facility opened on October 1, 1919.

The sanatorium was built as a "temporary resort where those seeking relief through Christian Science may go to find practical assistance in overcoming their difficulties." It was set back from Boylston Street and thus removed from the traffic and noise of this busy thoroughfare. Its setting was considered conducive to "the relaxation and spiritual well being that are essential for the renovation of sick, tired bodies." Flowers grown in the greenhouses which were constructed in 1924 were an important part of this philosophy of healing and were found in the reception rooms, corridors, dining room, and bedrooms of the main building. "One finds it difficult to imagine anyone being morose or neurotic in the midst of such smiling floral loveliness." The grounds of the sanatorium were also attractively landscaped with shrubs and flowers.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Permit-1918

Atlas-1907, 1913, 1919

Tax list-1913-1916

Article from files in Brookline Public Library-no date or source. Filed under hospitals.



Christian Science Nurses'
Training Building - end
(Boylston St)