

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

11- BEACON ST
WASHINGTON SQ

K Area K 35	Form no. 19/89-1 1425
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BKL.1425



Town Brookline
Address 1470 Beacon Street
Historic Name The Colchester
Use: Original Apartment Building
Present Same
Ownership: ☒ Private individual
Private organization _____
Public _____
Original owner Caroline B. Foster

SKETCH MAP

Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings or geographical features.
Indicate north.

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1894
Source Brookline Building Permit
Style Second Renaissance Revival
Architect Arthur H. Bowditch
Exterior wall fabric Brick
Outbuildings None
Major alterations (with dates) _____
1940 - Alter from 14 to 60 units.
Moved NO Date —
Approx. acreage 12,047 sq. ft.

Recorded by C. Benka & L. LarkinOrganization BHCDate June 1980

Setting This building is set on the corner of Beacon and Short Streets. It faces in a southerly direction with a frontage of 150' on the outward bound side of Beacon Street. Corey Hill rises sharply behind it.

This building meets NR criteria C, being a unique example of a Second Renaissance Revival style apartment house on Beacon Street.

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

Some of the more beautiful decorative details on any apartment house on Beacon Street found are found in the design of the Colchester at 1470 Beacon Street. The architect, Arthur H. Bowditch, was clearly influenced by the Second Renaissance Revival style in his design for this building. This is particularly evident in the distinct horizontal divisions, the window treatment, large arched entrance, rusticated stone quoins and enlarged belt courses. Perhaps the most noteworthy features are the two shades of brick used on the exterior and the fleur-de-lis pattern in the belt courses and wide frieze.

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

In addition to designing the Colchester, Bowditch designed the Stoneholm, Pelham Hall, and Bonair and Kenmore and several commercial blocks in Coolidge Corner. The Colchester was the first apartment house to be built on Beacon Street and it was constructed for Caroline B. Foster, Bowditch's mother-in-law who, at the time of construction, lived at 70 Upland Road on Pill Hill.* Mrs Foster's husband, Charles Orin Foster, was president of the Boston Sugar Refining Company. Among Mrs. Foster's earlier tenants was the leading Boston dealer in timber lands, John Webber (who later built the Stoneholm), and Eugene Knapp, a business associate and agent of Henry Whitney. (Webber lived here while his house on Beacon Street (corner of Lancaster Terrace) was under construction.

*The Foster's house on Beacon Street was next to the Colchester's site.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Permit-1894
Street list-1897
tax list-1894-1897, 1917-1919
Atlas-1893, 1897, 1900, 1907, 1913, 1919

