

FORM B - BUILDING

Pl- BEACON ST
ST. MARY MRA/D15

1456

Area	Form no.
K-4 K W	24/112 -6-10

BKL.1456



8

Town BrooklineAddress 1043-1049 Beacon StreetHistoric Name NAUse: Original 5 attached housesPresent Apartments, stores & OfficesOwnership: ☒ Private individuals
Private organizationPublicOriginal owner Silas W. Merrill

SKETCH MAP

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

Indicate north.

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1889Source Brookline Building PermitStyle Queen Anne/Romanesque RevivalArchitect Silas W. MerrillExterior wall fabric Brick & sandstoneOutbuildings None

Major alterations (with dates)

1932 - (#1043) Convert basement to store.

1960 - (#1043) Add 3 new egress doors.

1950 - (#1045) Construct basement apt.

1955 - (#1047) Alter windows to doors*

Moved NO Date Approx. acreage 14,245 sq ft. (total)Setting Set at lot line and nextto a block of similar houses.

1053-1071 Beacon St.

* on floors, 1, 2, and 3.

1971 - (#1047) Add basement entrance.

1959 - (#1049) Alter windows to exit doors.

1963 - (#1049) Alter dwelling into offices.

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

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

1043-1049 Beacon, like the block of attached townhouses at 1053-71, is of four stories with a full basement, constructed of brick and rusticated ashlar trim, and has three and four-story bays. # 1043-49 originally included # 1051, but that house was later combined with # 1049. This block has all rounded bays, while 1053-1071 has both rounded and polygonal bays, but both have a flattened gable end peak topping some of the bays - in the case of 1043-1049, these alternate with the four story bays, while at 1053-1071 they predominate, and each has 3 round-headed windows. Both blocks have string courses of stone and stone facing at the ground floor level.

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

See 1019-1029 Beacon for information on Lewis and Paine and Luther M. Merrill.

1043-49 Beacon St. was built by Silas W. Merrill. He was a builder, like Luther M. Merrill, and they were very probably related. Silas Merrill had a Boston office at 42 Holyoke St., and owned two large houses on the corner of St. Mary's St. and Ivy St., not far from these houses. While he is listed on the permits as the architect, it is likely that he used plans drawn up by G. Wilton Lewis or Lewis and Paine, as it is known that Lewis designed houses on Newbury St. in Boston between Dartmouth and Exeter Sts. for Merrill, and later 14 houses on the same street between Fairfield and Gloucester Sts. For some of Silas Merrill's other Boston houses no architect is listed, and these were probably also Lewis' design.

1053-1071, designed for Luther M. Merrill by Lewis and Paine two years later than Silas Merrill's block, is included here because of the architects and the similarities between the buildings.

Early occupants of #1043-51 were: Edwin D. Hathaway, blacking and dressing for leather, 233 Congress St., Francis W. Lawrence, Harry M. Howard, furniture, 49 Union St., Charles E. Lauriat, publisher, 301 Washington St., and William H. Treworgy, wholesale lumber, 30 Kilby St.

This block of buildings meets NR criteria C, being one of the oldest rows of attached single family houses of typical of the urban rowhouses built at this time in terms of height, setback, and architectural details, particularly the wall gables and Romanesque/Queen Anne detailing.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Bunting, Bainbridge, Houses of Boston's Back Bay
 Boston Directory, 1889
 Brookline Directory, 1890-95
 Tax lists, 1890-95



1061-1071 Beacon St