

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

PO - TOWN GREEN

NRDIS/MRW

BKL 1617

In Area no.

M, W

Form no.

1617



Brookline

12 Fairmount Street

NA

Residential

C.V & A. R. Lovell

Description:

1883

Tax list

Variation on Shingle Style

Architect John C. Olmsted

Exterior wall fabric Shingle

Outbuildings (describe) Metal garage

Other features 2 1/2 stories, gable roof
(2 side gables with central dormer)
slate roof, slight overhang at 2nd
fl. level decorated with saw-tooth
shingles, entrance porch on left,
5-sided 3 story bays w/porches

Altered no permits listed Date twen

Moved NO Date

5. Lot size: 11,337 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre

Approximate frontage None - has right
way over adjoining land

Approximate distance of building from street

100'

6. Recorded by Leslie Larkin

Organization BFC

Date February 1980

(over)

76/327-1

7. Original owner (if known) Frederick Law Olmsted

Original use Residential

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>X</u>	Exploration/	_____	Science/	_____
The Arts	_____	settlement	_____	invention	_____
Commerce	_____	Industry	_____	Social/	_____
Communication	_____	Military	_____	humanitarian	_____
Community development	<u>X</u>	Political	_____	Transportation	_____

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

When Frederick Law Olmsted decided to move to Brookline permanently, (see 99 Warren Street for more information on Olmsted) his great friend H. H. Richardson suggested that Olmsted build a house on Richardson's place at 25 Cottage St. Olmsted, however, preferred the old Joshua Clark house nearby, which was attractively sited on two acres. It was just as well he did, for Richardson did not own the land on Cottage St. but rented from his friend Edward Hooper, and in fact the site he suggested Olmsted build on was partly on his next door neighbor's land. The Clark house was owned by two descendants, the Misses Sarah and Susannah Clark, who were reluctant to leave the family place, although they were in distressed circumstances. John C. Olmsted hit on a plan to persuade them - FLO would build them a house on the property and they could live there rent-free for the rest of their lives. The old Clark house and land would be subject to a mortgage so that the sisters would have a regular income. They could not resist the offer, and in 1883 moved into this house.

According to plans and specifications in the Olmsted archives, John C. Olmsted designed this house, and there is evidence that he made changes in order to please the Clark sisters. This house, set off in a wooded area at the bend of Fairmount St., is unlike any other on the street, although contemporary with some. While not striking in design or size, it shows a nice grasp of proportion and Shingle Style details, as well as being excellently sited on its lot.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Tax lists, 1882-84

Plan, Engineering Dept., L/11/C/23, 1883

Brookline Directory, 1881-82, 1883-84, 1885-86

Hudak, Joseph, "Some Aspects of the Life and Times of the Olmsteds",

Proceedings, Brookline Historical Society for 1959

Roper, Laura Wood, FLO, A Biography, p. 390

Plans, Olmsted Archives, 1883

MHC INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MHC Inventory scanning project, 2008-2013

MACRIS No. BKL.1617



FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

RI - TOWN GREEN

1222

In Area no.	Form no.
	76
	327/1



Town Brookline BKL. 1017
Address 12 Fairmount Street
Name _____
Present use Residential
Present owner C.V & A. R. Lovell
Description:
Date 1883
Source Tax list
Style Variation on Shingle Style

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.

Architect John C. Olmsted
Exterior wall fabric Shingle
Outbuildings (describe) Metal garage
Other features 2½ stories, gable roof (2 side gables with central dormer) slate roof, slight overhang at 2nd fl. level decorated with saw-tooth shingles, entrance porch on left, 5-sided 3 story bays w/porches
Altered _____ Date tween
Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size: 11,337 sq. ft.

One acre or less ☒ Over one acre _____

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Organization BHC

Date February 1980

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Frederick Law Olmsted

Original use Residential

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>X</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	<u>X</u>				

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