

FORM B – BUILDING

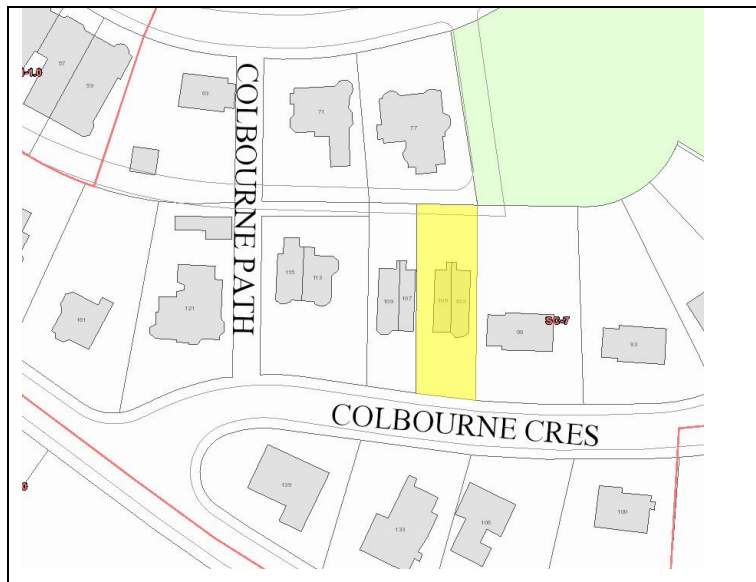
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Photo 1. West and façade (south) elevations.

Locus Map (north is at top)



Recorded by: Wendy Frontiero and Kathleen Broomer,
preservation consultants

Organization: Town of Brookline

Date (month / year): September 2019

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

220-43-00

Newton

BKL.I

BKL.757

Town/City: Brookline

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Aspinwall Hill

Address: 103-105 Colbourne Crescent

Historic Name: William B. Herrick House

Uses: Present: multiple-family residential

Original: two-family residential

Date of Construction: 1915

Source: building permit

Style/Form: Colonial Revival/Shingle Style

Architect/Builder: see narratives

Exterior Material:

Foundation: granite rubble

Wall/Trim: wood shingles and trim

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
NA

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
Front steps to porch? (late 20th – early 21st c?)

Condition: good to excellent

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 5,527 sf

Setting: Heterogeneous residential neighborhood,
developed principally in the late 19th and early 20th
centuries; mostly single-family wood frame houses.
Curvilinear roadway winds up and around the top of
Aspinwall Hill.

RECEIVED
OCT 03 2019

MASS. HIST. COMM.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BROOKLINE

103-105 COLBOURNE CR

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

BKL.I

BKL.757

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

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

The two-family dwelling at 103-105 Colbourne Crescent occupies a rectangular lot on the north side of Colbourne Crescent, near its intersection with Rawson Road. The house is set well above street level, with a comparatively deep front setback from the road. Maintained chiefly in ground cover, the front yard features a low, landscape timber retaining wall at the sidewalk edge and two tiers of poured concrete retaining walls immediately above. Accessing both 103-105 and 107-109 Colbourne Crescent is a very wide concrete staircase with a plain pipe railing up the middle, extending from the sidewalk edge to the flat terrace on which the buildings stand.

The long rectangular building rises 2 ½ stories from a rubble foundation to a pedimented, end-gambrel roof punctuated by shed-roofed dormers. Walls are clad with wood shingles; the plane of the second story slightly overhangs the first story. Windows typically have 6/6 double hung sash with band molding; windows in the half-story have diamond-paned sash.

The three-bay façade contains a two-bay entrance porch on the western end, featuring segmentally arched openings and shingled piers and spandrels at the first floor, a solid shingled base, and a low, shingled parapet wall on its second-story roof deck. The entrance porch is accessed by a straight stairway running parallel to the façade, with solid shingled walls. Two single-leaf doorways are set behind the entrance porch, which is flanked on its east side by a two-story angled bay window and surmounted at its westernmost bay by an angled bay window on the second floor. Two windows with diamond-paned upper sash are centered in the half story, above a narrow shed roof at the base of the gambrel pediment. A small horizontal window in the gambrel peak also displays diamond-paned sash.

Both the east and west elevations have regular but asymmetrical fenestration in a variety of sizes and shapes, including occasional small square sash on the east elevation. A small shed-roofed dormer containing one window is located towards the front of the west elevation; a longer shed-roofed dormer with two windows is centered on the lower east slope.

Well maintained and unusually well preserved, 103-105 Colbourne Crescent is a good example of two-family, middle class suburban housing in Brookline and forms a striking pair with the virtually identical building at 107-109 Colbourne Crescent. The carefully considered design is notable for its prominent siting on the hillside with a bold landscape stairway, generous volume and gambrel roof, shingled entry porch, bay windows on the façade, diamond-paned sash, and overhanging second story.

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.

Illustrating the continuing subdivision of larger tracts near the summit of Aspinwall Hill after the turn of the 20th century, this parcel and the adjacent parcel associated with 107-109 Colbourne Crescent (see form) were developed with nearly identical two-family dwellings between 1915 and 1918. The 1979 inventory form for this property identifies John F. Kinney as the owner and builder (i.e., the developer), and John F. Foley as architect. The first residents of 103-105 Colbourne Crescent were recorded in the 1917 street list. Charles Wesley Blackett, a Methodist clergyman who relocated to Brookline from Dorchester, resided at 103. Dr. Blackett, who earned his bachelor's degree and Ph.D. from Boston University, served as president of the Methodist Ministers Relief Insurance and Trust Association. William B. Herrick, manager of a teacher's agency who came to Brookline from Auburndale (Newton), is recorded in the unit at 105. Herrick owned this building by 1919, though Newton directories still show him as a Newton resident that year. It appears he maintained the building as an investment property. William Platt Land (d. 1948) owned the property and lived here from the late 1920s until his death. A Philadelphia native, Land

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BROOKLINE

103-105 COLBOURNE CR

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

BKL.I

BKL.757

was an insurance professional and vice president of the Cotton and Woolen Manufacturers Mutual Insurance Company of New England. Land's tenants in 1930 were Alice H. Spaulding, a teacher, and her adult children. Succeeding the Land family at 103 Colbourne Crescent by 1950 were Enrique Naranjo (d.1958) and his family, who later moved to Pleasant Street in Brookline. A native of Cali, Colombia, Naranjo was with the Colombian consular service from 1920 to 1938, in which capacity he came to Boston, later establishing an import-export firm with ties to South America. He also was a historian and lecturer on South American history and culture, reportedly at Harvard University and other colleges. Additional residents of this two-family dwelling after World War II included Bernard Rosenberg, a manager, and his wife, Bessie, at 105 (in 1950); Mary M. McKinnon, a teacher, at 103 (in 1970); and the family of Pierre M. Fontaine, an instructor in an undetermined field, and his wife, Edesse, all from Haiti, at 105 (in 1970).

Boston directories and census records describe John F. Kinney alternately as a mason and a building contractor. He resided in Roxbury in 1910 and relocated to Brighton by 1917. MHC's MACRIS database attributes to Kinney the construction of the Michael T. Coleman House, 12 Elba Street (1922, BKL.125, Frank Chouteau Brown, archt.), located in Brookline's Crowninshield Local Historic District (BKL.G), though the associated inventory forms for that property and area do not appear to reference Kinney. Variations in the spelling of the surname likely contribute to the lack of consistent data for this individual. Also not clear is whether the notation on the 1979 inventory form attributing the design of the building to John F. Foley as architect was an incorrect transcription of John F. Kinney. For speculative construction on Aspinwall Hill and elsewhere in Brookline during this period, building permits typically provide the same name for owner, architect, and builder. Neither Brookline nor Boston directories record a John F. Foley as an architect or builder in 1915.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- 103-105 Colbourne Crescent (BKL.757), prepared by J. Vosmik and L. Larkin for the Brookline Historical Commission, 1979.
Aspinwall Hill area form (BKL.I), prepared by Carla Benka et al., Brookline Historical Commission, 1978-1979.
Atlases of Brookline: 1913, 1919, 1927, 1931.
Brookline building permits. Research by Greer Hardwicke.
Brookline street lists of residents/poll tax payers (title varies): 1911-1913, 1930, 1950, 1970.
Brookline, Boston, and Newton directories.
General Alumni Catalogue of Boston University. W. J. Maxwell, compiler. Boston, MA: By the university, 1918, p. 28.
Database and images. www.ancestry.com.
"Land, William P. Insurance official's funeral tomorrow." *Daily Boston Globe* (1928-1960); December 30, 1948; ProQuest
Historical Newspapers: The Boston Globe, 17.
MHC MACRIS database.
"Naranjo, Enrique. Ex-Colombian consul, historian, lecturer." *Daily Boston Globe* (1928-1960); December 27, 1958; ProQuest
Historical Newspapers: The Boston Globe, 12.
U. S. Federal census records: 1880-1940. Database and images. www.ancestry.com.

D. AS A NW 11

BKL-757 757



MISSION
Boston

In Area no. I	Form no. 44 220-43
------------------	--------------------------

1. Town Brookline

Address 103-105 Colbourne Crescent

Name _____

Present use Two family residence

Present owner D.K. & D. M. Shelton

3. Description:

Date 1915

Source Building permit

Style Not applicable

Architect John F. Foley

Exterior wall fabric Shingle

Outbuildings (describe) None

Other features 2 1/2 stories, gambrel roof & pent roof, heavy cornice, 2 story polygonal bay, also polygonal bay at 2nd fl., 2 story porch with solid shingled sides, also shingled stairway.

Altered _____ Date _____

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size: 5527 sq. ft.

One acre or less X Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 40'

Approximate distance of building from street
45'

6. Recorded by J. Vosmik, L. Larkin

Organization Brookline Historical Comm.

Date March, 1979

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) John F. Kinney

Original use Two family residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	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)

This house is included in the survey in order to show the type of multi-family housing, other than triple deckers and apartments, being built on Aspinwall Hill between 1910 and 1920. # 107 next door is identical, and was also built by Kinney - he was probably a builder but is not listed in either the Brookline or Boston Directories. In 1917 both apartments were rented: The Reverend Charles W. Blackett lived at #103, and Wm. B. Herrick, listed only as a manager, was at #105.

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

Building Dept. permit, 1915

Street list, 1917

Directory, 1916

Boston Directory, 1916