

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

9-61	Salem		BEV.1115
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Photograph



North (façade) and west elevations

Town/City: Beverly

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Ryal Side

Address: 124 Bridge Street

Historic Name: Ryal Side Fire Station

Uses: Present: residential

Original: fire house

Date of Construction: 1917-18

Source: Beverly Historical Society;
Dept. of Public Safety records

Style/Form: Classical Revival

Architect/Builder: Chester N. Clark

Exterior Material:

Foundation: granite rubble

Wall/Trim: stucco with wood trim

Roof: membrane

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Vehicle entry doors replaced (mid to late 20th c) - Converted to residential use (2003) – New side deck (2010)

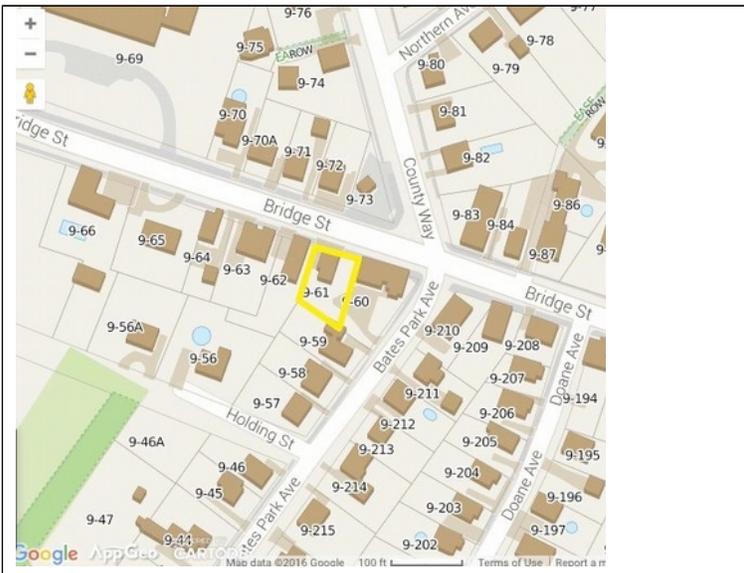
Condition: good to excellent

Moved: no **Date:**

Acreage: 0.11 acre

Setting: Located on a main thoroughfare, in a predominantly residential neighborhood of mostly late 19th to early 20th century buildings.

Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Wendy Frontiero and Pamela Hartford

Organization: Beverly Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): September 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

BEVERLY

124 BRIDGE STREET

Area(s) Form No.

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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 Ryal Side Fire Station occupies a small trapezoidal lot on the south side of Bridge Street, near its intersection with Bates Park Avenue on the south and County Way on the north. The building has narrow setbacks on the north (Bridge Street) and west sides, and the lot appears to drop significantly down to the south. The eastern end of the property is enclosed by a vertical board wood fence. Asphalt paving covers the front setback.

The rectangular main block of the building, which housed the fire fighting equipment measures 18 feet wide by 38 feet deep; a narrow bay on the west with a pedestrian entrance is recessed two feet behind the main façade and extends 22 feet. The building rises two stories to a flat roof with a copper-clad pedimented parapet on the north (façade) and side elevations. Walls are clad with stucco and trimmed with a high wood entablature and prominent wood cornice. Rectangular windows contain 6/1 replacement sash with flat wood trim.

The north (façade) elevation contains one wide bay, having a single vehicular door with a banded casing and narrow cornice molding on the ground floor and four contiguous windows above. The narrow western bay of the façade contains a single-leaf pedestrian door on the first story, sheltered by a modest shed roof, and a single window centered above.

A wood deck (built in 2010) wraps around the back half of the west side of the building and the full width of the back (south) elevation. The west elevation is blank at the first floor and contains two symmetrical windows at the outer edges of the second floor. The asymmetrical east elevation of the fire station contains three windows towards the front of the building on the first floor and two towards the rear of the second floor (including one small casement window).

The Ryal Side Fire Station is a modest but competently designed example of early 20th century civic architecture in Beverly. The major exterior alteration consists of replacement window sash and the filling in of two second-story windows on the east elevation; the interior has been adapted for residential use. The building is notable for its stucco cladding, surviving firehouse door and fenestration, and decorative entablature, cornice, and parapet.

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.

Manufacturing prosperity and a huge population increase between 1890 and 1920 led to a surge of new institutional buildings in Beverly during this period, including four fire stations, eight schools, two libraries, a municipal waterworks facility, armory, and a central post office. Constructed in 1917, the Ryal Side Fire Station was one of four new fire stations built in Beverly between 1904 and 1918, the others including Hose House #4 at 439 Essex Street in Centerville (1903; BEV.255); Hose House #2 at 30 Rantoul Street (1905; BEV.73; NR 1986); and Beverly Ladder #2/Engine #5 Fire House in North Beverly at Cabot and Dodge streets (2 Dodge Street; 1907; BEV.470).

The Ryal Side neighborhood rapidly developed with suburban housing beginning around the turn of the 20th century, attracting a street railway, a Sunday school and subsequent church, an elementary school, and a few small stores along Bridge Street. Talk of increased fire protection in Ryal Side (along with a recommendation, interestingly, to apply stucco on existing wooden municipal buildings for fire protection and air temperature control) began as early as 1914 in the mayor's annual address. By 1915, the City's fire chief called for construction of a new fire station due to the area's increased population, schoolhouse, and church. The city acquired the land for this station in 1916 for \$415. Construction of the building was completed in 1917, and in

Continuation sheet 1

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1918 the new station at Ryal Side was operational. The 1925 municipal report identifies Combination No. 3 at 124 Bridge Street, manned by a company chiefly of volunteers: James S. Barss, captain (a carpenter by trade); John Grant, lieutenant (a plumber); Thomas P. Hoy, clerk (a traveling salesman); Charles Goodwin (a clerk); and three full-time firemen: Michael Terry, Jr., William A. Twohig, and Archibald L. Marshall, Jr. The building remained a fire station for 85 years; in 2003 it was converted to a single-family home.

Beverly-born architect Chester Newman Clark (1888-1971) was described as a draftsman in Boston (at 15 Congress Street) in 1914; by 1917, he was listed as an architect, with an office at 244 Cabot Street in Beverly. From at least 1920 through 1956, he lived at 564 Cabot Street in Beverly with his wife Emma and their two children. Clark was still identified as an architect in 1941 (at the GE Company in Lynn), but by 1956 he was described as a florist with his business and house at 564 Cabot Street. At nearly the same time of his commission for the Ryal Side Fire Station, Clark designed another stucco-clad building on Bridge Street, for the Immanuel Congregational Church (1915; not extant; see form).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Beverly city directories, 1914 – 1956.
- City of Beverly, Building Inspector's Office. Building permit records.
- City of Beverly. Municipal Documents, 1914-18.
- Find a Grave, Inc. Find a Grave. Databases and digital images via FindaGrave.com.
- Hepler, Margaret. *Beverly; Historic Cultural Resources Survey, 1992-93; Final Report*. June 1993.
- Historic maps and atlases: 1907 (George H. Walker)
- Massachusetts Division of Inspection. Building inspection plans, 1889-1987. Massachusetts Archives. Ryalside Fire Station, 126 Bridge Street.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Reconnaissance Survey Town Report: Beverly*. 1986.
- U.S. Federal Census, 1920, 1930.

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



East and north (façade) elevations