

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	BKL.1422
Historic Name:	Stoneholm, The Apartment House
Common Name:	
Address:	1514 Beacon St
City/Town:	Brookline
Village/Neighborhood:	Washington Square; Beacon Street
Local No:	19/89-8
Year Constructed:	1907
Architect(s):	Bowditch, Arthur Hunnewell; Moskow, Harry
Architectural Style(s):	Renaissance Revival
Use(s):	Apartment House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	BKL.K: Beacon Street Historic District BKL.W: Brookline Multiple Resource Area
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (10/17/1985); Nat'l Register MRA (10/17/1985)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Ceramic Tile Wall: Granite Foundation: Granite



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

MRH-DIS

K Area K-38 W	Form no. 19 1422 89-8.9
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BKL-1422



Brookline

Address 1514 Beacon Street

Historic Name The Stoneholm

Original apartments

Present apartments

 Ownership: ☒ Private individual
 Private organization

Public

Original owner John P. Webber

DESCRIPTION:

location in relation to nearest
cross streets and other buildings
or geographical features.
Indicate north.

Date 1907

Source Building permit

Style Beaux-Arts Baroque

Architect Arthur H. Bowditch

Exterior wall fabric granite

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates)

Oct. 1947-convert from 19 to 32 suites

Moved DO

Date

Approx. acreage 34,859 sq. ft.

Recorded by C. Benka and L. Larkin

Organization Brookline Historical Com.

Date June 1980

 Setting Built on north side of street,
 at foot of Corey Hill, overlooks
 Beacon Street

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

The pink granite building at 1514 Beacon Street was designed in 1907 by Arthur H. Bowditch in the Beaux-Arts Baroque style. Among the more outstanding architectural details are the embellished cornice, draped garlands along the top edges of the tiled mansard roof, balconies, patterned marble and stained glass of the lobby, the marquis at the front entrance, and the symmetrical massing in the courtyard design. Other courtyard-type apartments on Beacon Street include Richmond Court, the prototype for this design; the Warwick, 1862-1870 Beacon Street, and 1673-1681 Beacon Street as well as #1397. The Stoneholm is an important example of the courtyard apartment house and has no rivals in terms of its architecture.

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

Called "the grandest courtyard apartment house", "the most magnificent building of its type on Greater Boston", and "a splendid Baroque extravaganza that holds the high ground above Beacon Street with great distinction" (see Built in Boston by Douglass Shand Tucci), the Stoneholm was built and first owned by John P. Webber who built his first house in Brookline at the corner of Kent Street and Longwood Avenue. Webber, who once lived at the Colchester on Beacon Street, later built a large brick home and stable at the corner of Lancaster and Beacon Streets; the Stoneholm was built next door. Born in Maine, Webber established an office in the Rogers Building on Washington Street in Boston, having been in business in Bangor for 20 years. At one time, he controlled 300,000 acres of the choicest spruce lands in the upper part of Maine and also owed several large tracts in Wisconsin and Minnesota of the best white pine.

Webber hired Arthur Hunnewell Bowditch to design this 19 suite apartment complex. Bowditch was born in Boston in 1870 and served as a draughtsman in the office of J. Merrill Brown before setting up his own firm of Bowditch and Stratton in 1903. He married Caroline Foster whose father was president of the Boston Sugar Refining Company. One of his earlier works on Beacon Street, and indeed, in Brookline, was the Colchester Apartment house, a Second Renaissance Revival style structure, built for his mother-in-law. Bowditch also designed his own home at 12 Maple Street; the Manual Training School, and a number of single family houses including 57 Upland Road. Perhaps his greatest contribution to Brookline, however, were the buildings which he designed on Beacon Street. In addition to the Stoneholm and Colchester, Bowditch designed the Bonair and Kenmore apartments at 1477 Beacon; Pelham Hall, an imposing apartment house on the edge of the Coolidge Corner commercial area; blocks of stores and offices at 1292-1308 and 1310 to 1322 Beacon Street; and nine attached single family houses at 1796-1812 Beacon St.

Douglass Shand Tucci, Built in Boston, Boston: New York Graphic Society 1978, pp. 103, 119, 144, 145-46.

History of Brookline-1906, p.166

Permit-1907

Leading Manufacturers and Merchants in the City of Boston-p.332

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

BKL 1422

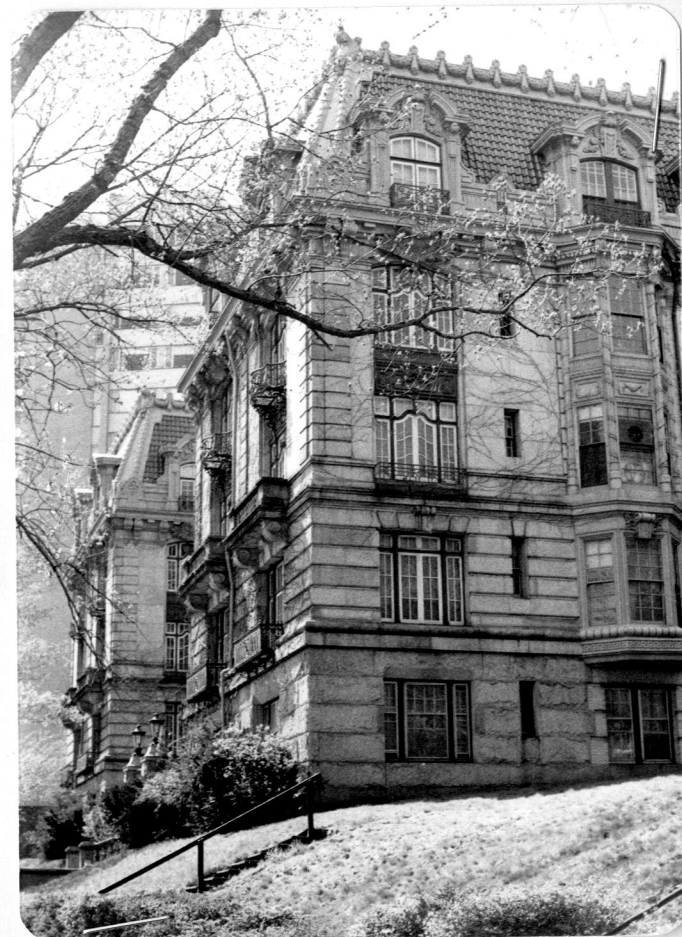
Community: BROOKLINE	Form No: 19 89-8,9
Property Name: THE STONEHOLM	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

He also designed a series of attached townhouses off Beacon Street at 12-16 Corey Road. This complex, built in 1896, shows evidence of the medieval and shingle styles, and taken with Bowditch's works on Beacon Street, serves to demonstrate the immense range and great degree of versatility found in the skills of this architect.

The Stoneholm was one of Brookline's more prestigious addresses. Among the early residents were judges, brokers, leather goods manufacturers, and mining engineers as well as industrialists and merchants. The economic and social class of the occupants did not vary substantially for at least the first 15 years, as indicated by research through the Brookline directories and street lists.

This structure meets NR criteria C, being an example of the luxurious and extravagant types of apartment hotels built on Beacon Street during the 1890s and early decades of the 20th century and a unique example of the Beaux-Arts Baroque style.



Stanley to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town

Brookline

BKL 1422
 Property Address

1514 Beacon St.

Area(s)

Form No.

BKL 1422

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
 DIVISION OF INSPECTION
 PLAN RECORD

CASE A RACK 2 APART. 12 NO. 73171
 BUILDING The Stoneholm ALTER. 4
 CITY OR TOWN Brookline STREET 1514 Beacon St.
 TO BE USED FOR Apartments CLASS 1st Class
 OWNER Boyleston Housing Corp.
 ARCHITECT Harry Moskowitz
 CERTIFICATE APPROVAL-SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS-REFERRED
 DATE March 13, 1941
 INSPECTOR Corney

Form BU. 1-2m-8-39. No. 8067

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TWO ANTI-SUFFRAGE ARGUMENTS ANSWERED

To the Editor of The Chronicle—
Sir: The writer has read with no little interest the leading argument of Miss Chittenden against the extension of Woman's Suffrage in Massachusetts, a report of which meeting appeared in last week's Chronicle. If she had confined herself to her text all would have been well—the expediency of extending the ballot.

But when Miss Chittenden goes out of her way (if she is correctly reported) to say "Thoughtful men and women throughout the country today are awakening to a realization that the opposition to Woman Suffrage is not based upon the mere whim of the women who do not want to vote, but upon biological and physiological laws which emphasize the intended difference in sex activity even in the lowest forms of animal life. As they study the question still further they find that the development of the race has come through a continuous growth in specialization, and that as civilization advances, the respective functions of men and women are more definitely developed." (The italics are my own). Now this trite argument reminds me that in making this statement Miss Chittenden has not clearly and definitely defined exactly what the proper function of woman is—unless she means what she says in a further statement: "Nature has assigned a great work to woman and she cannot do it well if she is going to attempt to do man's work also,"—which of course means motherhood.

Much of what is called science today is not exact science. That which one accepts as truth in scientific thought today is liable to be disputed and fall to the ground in another generation.

From primitive man down to the present time there has been no scientific definition as to the exact function of woman. Unfortunately for the argument against woman's voting—that of motherhood—a very large per cent of women are childless. To put oneself in another's place is somewhat good for the understanding. A large mass of the women in Massachusetts are wage-earners. They are born poor, and with few of those opportunities that have come to their sisters who have the luxuries of life. They see that the Woman Suffragists in Massachusetts have opened, in the last forty years, better opportunities to improve their physical and mental condition: They are hungry for something more, and so they turn to the ballot, knowing as they do that it is the Legislature of Massachusetts that has made these opportunities for the betterment of themselves possible.

"The conservation of energy, which is the law of life, strengthens one's forces, while a diffusion weakens the natural power. . . . The menacing tendency on the part of woman to assume the functions and activities of man will lead sooner or later to the weakening of her own forces, and we shall then have deterioration, not progress, and there is not much hope for the race when the women deteriorate." What authority has Miss Chittenden for this last statement? Has she the clear vision to forecast the future?

Did England deteriorate under Queen Elizabeth, or under the long reign of Queen Victoria?—the last Queen Regent fulfilled her duty in motherhood. If we are to believe the historians of that period during which time Elizabeth was Queen Regent of England we learn that it was the period of intellectual greatness—during this reign Protestantism was established.

Professor Sedgwick quoted from the Scriptures, "We are all members one of another, but all the members have not the same office." This seems to me a rather weak statement. Can Mr. Sedgwick define exactly what the office of woman is? If so, he is indeed a remarkable man.

The expediency of giving the ballot to woman at the present time, is open for an honest difference of opinion. The capacity for an understanding of politics by women, at the ballot box, does not seem to the writer to have two sides to the question.

MRS. WM. SUMNER CROSBY.

Cucumber Cream Soap is just right to soften the Brookline hard water. It is pure and very soothing to the skin.

NEW ENGLAND'S FINEST APARTMENT BUILDING.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW STONEHOLM IN BROOKLINE.

A Credit to Mr. Webber, the Owner, and Mr. Bowditch, the Architect.

It is safe to say that the Stoneholm, at 1514 Beacon street, Brookline, is the most magnificent apartment-house in New England and will compare favorably with the best in New York.

Mr. John P. Webber of Brookline, who accumulated a fortune chiefly through his interests in Maine timber property, spared no expense in realizing his purpose of putting up a building which should compare well with the best of its kind, and he has succeeded in erecting a noteworthy monument to his good taste.

Architectural beauty and completeness of appointments make the Stoneholm one of the most interesting buildings in Brookline.

The architect, Mr. Arthur H. Bowditch of Brookline, whose offices are in the Winthrop Building, Boston, carried out the style of the French Renaissance. The stone used in the construction of the house is pink Milford granite; the beauty of which is greatly enhanced by the green tile roofing and verd green, wrought-iron balconies which front the windows.

The approach is particularly impressive,—the front court yard formed by the two wings of the building being reached by double granite steps and fronted by carved granite balustrades. A granolithic walk runs through the centre of the court which is about one hundred feet deep and sixty feet wide. The grass plots on either side of the walk are protected by a hedge.

Passing through the windowed vestibule, entrance is had into the hall, which is finished in Vermont marble of several colors and trimmed with ornamental brackets of carved Caen stone. Here is found the clerk's desk. All the public lights in the building are directly controlled by a special switchboard at this desk. There are two passenger elevators, one rising into each wing.

On the ground floor there is one apartment in each wing, while on the four floors above there are two, a front and a rear apartment. The finish of these apartments is entirely in keeping with the luxuriousness of the exterior, and they have every possible modern convenience.

Seven of the rooms are situated on both sides of a long corridor, and the dining-room and a drawing room are connected at the end of the corridor.

The reception room on the left of the entrance is paneled in figured silk Renaissance tapestry, and the electric lighting fixtures are conceived in harmony.

There are four bed rooms with bath rooms of the most approved appointments between each two. The dining-room, the walls of which are three quarters of white mahogany, specially imported from South America, with plain silk tapestry above, is princely in its effect.

The drawing room connecting has a wall finished entirely in mahogany. The chandeliers and wall fixtures as well as the curtains in these rooms are especially attractive.

The maid's room, beyond the kitchen, has a connected private bath.

The building is heated by steam heat supplied by low pressure boilers and is cared for by a janitor and assistant janitor. In the basement large lockers are used by the tenants for storage purposes. A private road has been built in the rear of the building for the convenience of trades men, and delivery of provisions, etc., is made by way of the basement.

The superintendent of the Stoneholm, Mr. Fred H. King, has been successful in his superintendence of the Colchester apartments nearby of which he has been manager for five years. It was recognition of this success which secured him this additional responsibility.

It is natural that the rental of these apartments should range rather high, but we understand it runs only from \$1250 to \$3000 a year, which is little enough when the beauty of the building and completeness of its service are taken into consideration.

Brookline Chronicle Jan 29, 1910

Brookline Chronicle

THE MOLL

The week of the Brookline Union is interesting as an observer.

From the middle of the half-past twelve as an enthusiastic woman as.

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