

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

BOSTON

11 ROANOKE AVENUE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

BOS.MJ

BOS.10115

This sheet is submitted by Lyle Nyberg, independent historian, March 2020. It adds information about the property and notable boarders at this house in the Jamaica Plain section of Boston. The house is in area BOS.MJ: Sumner Hill Historic District, Nat'l Register District (10/22/1987), NRIS 87001889.

Judith Winsor Smith boarded here with her daughter Zilpha starting about 1919. The Boston Women's Heritage Trail says:

Judith Winsor Smith (1821-1921) was an active suffragist, abolitionist, and member of the New England Women's Club and the East Boston community where she lived for 65 years. ... When she voted for the first time in 1920, she was dubbed "the oldest suffragist of them all." In her later years, she lived in Jamaica Plain with her daughter Zilpha Smith (1852-1926), a pioneer in the development of family social work in Boston.¹

A *Boston Globe* article in 1920 gave Judith's address as 11 Roanoke "Street" (which should have been "Avenue"). A review of the extensive collection of Judith's papers at the Massachusetts Historical Society confirms this as her address later in life.² During this period she gained renewed recognition for her suffrage activism, as noted in extensive biographical materials. She met with President Warren Harding when he visited Plymouth on August 1, 1921. She told him that she waited 75 years for the opportunity to cast her ballot for the first time.³

The Boston Assessor's office says this is a two-family property on 6,729 square feet, built in 1895. This does not appear accurate, and the 1885 date of construction noted on the B Form is likely more accurate. A building appears here on the 1888 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map with the same nearly square plan as today. The current parcel number is 1901356000. The building's recent appearance on Google Street View matches the photo on the B Form from the mid-1980s.⁴

This appears to have been the home of Walter (not William, as on Form B) Herbert Miller, a piano dealer, who died in 1895.⁵

Bibliography

Judith Winsor Smith Papers, 1796-1945, Massachusetts Historical Society, Guide to the Collection, <https://www.masshist.org/collection-guides/view/fa0063>

"Biographical Sketch of Judith Winsor Smith," Online Biographical Dictionary of the Woman Suffrage Movement in the United States, <https://documents.alexanderstreet.com/d/1009638237>

Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, Drew Archival Library, Smith McLauthlin Collection, partial finding aid, <https://drewarchives.org/finding-aids/smith-mclauthlin-collection/>

"Smith, Zilpha Drew (Jan. 25, 1852?-Oct. 12, 1926)," in Edward T. James, Janet Wilson James, and Paul S. Boyer, eds., *Notable American Women 1607-1950: A Biographical Dictionary*, vol. 3, P-Z (Cambridge: the Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1971), 321

Hansan, J.E., "Zilpha Drew Smith (1852-1926): Pioneer in the Charity Organization Movement and Early Social Work Educator" (2013), <https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/social-work/smith-zilpha-drew/>

¹ Boston Women's Heritage Trail, Jamaica Plain self-guided tour, item 13, <https://bwht.org/jamaica-plain/>.

² "She'll Vote Even if it Rains," *Boston Globe*, August 29, 1920, 61; Judith Winsor Smith Papers, 1796-1945, Massachusetts Historical Society, Guide to the Collection, <https://www.masshist.org/collection-guides/view/fa0063>.

³ M. E. Hennessy, "Edwards Given Warm Greeting," *Boston Globe*, August 2, 1921, 12.

⁴ Assessing Online, <https://www.cityofboston.gov/assessing/search/?q=11+roanoke>; *Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts*, vol. 3 (New York: Sanborn Map Publishing Co, 1888), sheet 97 (image 75 of 81), Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3764bm.g03693188803/?sp=75&r=-1.519,0.035,4.039,1.606,0>.

⁵ *The Boston Directory 1887* (Boston: Sampson, Murdock, & Company, 1887), 855 (residence on Roanoke Ave.), Hathitrust.org, <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015074624456>; "Funeral of Walter H. Miller," *Boston Globe*, January 7, 1895, 12 (mentioning late residence on Roanoke Ave.).

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Records of the Boston Inspectional Services Department, including 1932 application to convert to home for aged and convalescents, online, <https://www.boston.gov/departments/inspectional-services/how-find-historical-permit-records>

Other

SHE'LL VOTE EVEN IF IT RAINS

At 100 Mrs Judith Smith of Jamaica Plain Will Cast Her First Vote for President, After 70 Years Fighting for the Ballot

"For 70 years I have been in the fight for woman suffrage, and I want every woman to go to the polls the first election they are allowed to and vote. Vote as right as you can, but vote anyway, whether it rains or not."

This is the advice to women voters by the oldest suffragist of them all—Mrs Judith Smith of 11 Roanoke st. Jamaica Plain, who has just passed her 100th birthday.

"Rain is the greatest foe to hon-

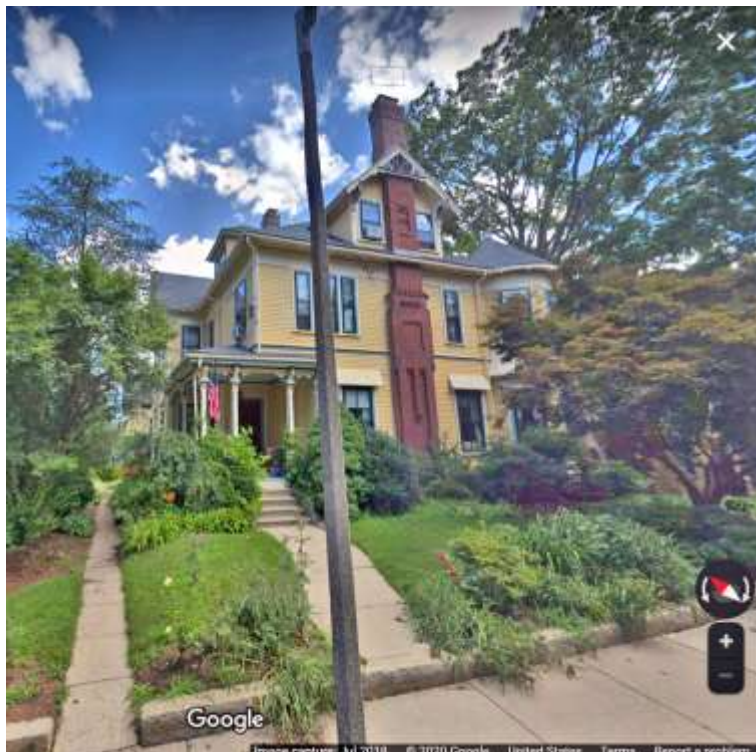
est politics there is," she says. "If it rains the respectable ones stay at home, and the political gamblers get their innings. Therefore, I say to women, go and vote, even if it pours. I have voted for the School Committee as long as the women have had that privilege, and intend to vote for the School Committee and every other office holder as long as I live."

Her First Vote for President

"I am very healthy, too, and haven't an ache or a pain. Yes, they tell me I



Excerpts from *Boston Globe* article, August 29, 1920, 61



Google Street View, July 2018 (enhanced for clarity)

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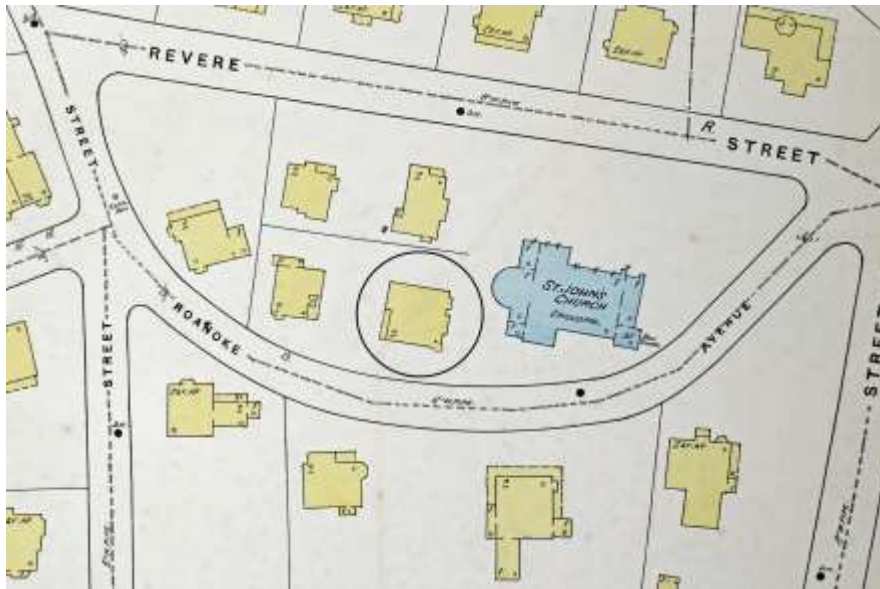
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11 Roanoke Ave. (circled) on this detail of 1888 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, vol. 3, sheet 97

Funeral of Walter H. Miller.
The funeral services of Walter Herbert Miller, a prominent piano dealer, were held at his late residence on Roanoke av, Jamaica Plain, this afternoon. The parlors were filled with friends of the deceased in business life, and the floral testimonials were very elaborate, notwithstanding the request of the family that no flowers be sent. The employes of the deceased sent a beautiful piece in expression of their feelings at his loss. Members of the Eliot club of Jamaica Plain were present, taking charge of the floral arrangements. Rev Minot J. Savage of Boston and Rev Charles F. Dole of the Jamaica Plain Unitarian church officiated. Rev S. U. Shearman of St John's Episcopal church, Jamaica Plain, and Judge McKim of the Suffolk probate court were present. There were no pallbearers, and the interment was at Forest Hills.

Boston Globe, January 7, 1895, 12