

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

18-64	Boston North	O	BLM.48
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Town/City: Belmont

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Walnut Hill/Waverley

Address: 24 Cedar Road

Historic Name: Emory F. Chaffee House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1913

Source: building permit

Style/Form: Prairie Style

Architect/Builder: Victor Wigglesworth

Exterior Material:

Foundation: fieldstone

Wall/Trim: stucco, wood

Roof: slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

garage (1913)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

2003-5 – some window replacements

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

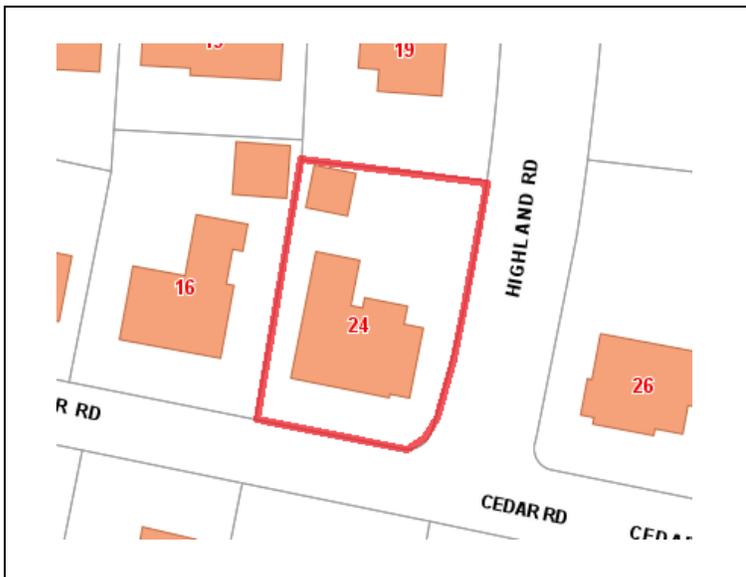
Acreage: 11,492 SF

Setting: neighborhood of distinctive single family dwellings dating to early 20th century, many architect designed.

Photograph



Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): July 2014

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

24 CEDAR ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

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

Constructed in 1913, the house at 24 Cedar Road is a rare and well-preserved local example of the Prairie Style and was likely inspired by architectural journals/popular magazines of the day. The two-story building is capped by a characteristic low-pitched hip roof with widely overhanging eaves. Roofs on the front and side porches are similarly cantilevered. The exterior of the house is stuccoed with contrasting wood trim emphasizing the upper story and the horizontality of the structure. Additional woodwork trim of a more structural nature is bolted to the masonry piers of the front porch and on the east sunporch to support the overhanging eaves. A pair of low walls/pedestals with contrasting caps front the main entry porch. The groupings of windows include transomed casement windows on the first floor with double-hung 6/6 windows above. A number of the windows were replaced in 2003 and 2005.

The house is set on a level corner lot with a hedge running along both the Cedar Road and Highland Road frontages. A paved driveway extends along the west side of the house, terminating at a flat-roofed, stuccoed garage that is contemporary with the house. A modern overhead garage door faces the street.

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.

This house was built in the first phase of the Walnut Hill development which was subdivided by its owner and long-time Belmont resident Winthrop Chenery in 1910. The house at 24 Cedar Road comprises Lot 26 and part of Lot 41 on the 1910 Plan (Plan Book 192, Plan 13). In May 1913 a building permit was issued to Mrs. Emory F. Chaffee of Somerville. The architect was Victor Wigglesworth.

Emory Franklin Chaffee (1856-1923) was a Somerville druggist who also was active in real estate. In 1920 he was living here with his wife Belle, their daughter Lillian, and her husband, Sanford Comery who was a teacher at the high school. A son, Emory Leon Chaffee lived in a house (also designed by Victor Wigglesworth) at 20 Highland Road that was built in 1915.

E.F. Chaffee died in 1923 and Mrs. Chaffee was still living here in 1927 according to the directory of that year. By 1928 the house was owned by George and Edith Beals. He was employed as a broker and was later treasurer of the Vellumoid Company. Later owners included Helen Porter (1944-1962). It has been owned by Louis and Sandra Rosenblum since 1962.

This is the earliest of the houses in Belmont known to have been designed by Victor Hugo Wigglesworth (1885-1958) who was born in Hyde Park in 1885. Nothing is known about his educational background other than the 1940 Census indicates that the highest level of schooling he received was the first year of high school. In 1910 he was living with his mother in Chelsea and the local directory lists him as an architect. He and his brother Charles appear to have briefly formed a partnership and are credited with the design of several Colonial Revival buildings in Chelsea including buildings on Bellingham Square and the Chelsea Day Nursery. He married Mary Winthrop Shackford on May 25, 1916 and they lived in a house he designed at 4 Colonial Terrace in Belmont that year.

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Other buildings designed by Wigglesworth in Belmont include 20 Highland Road (1915), a house for his own use at 214 Common Street (1922, no longer extant), another across the street (217 Common Street, no longer extant) and several houses nearby on Slade Street including 223-225 Slade Street, 234 Slade Street, 256 Slade Street, and another house for himself at 21 Knox Road (no longer extant). Many of the buildings he designed were of concrete, fireproof construction and almost all were Colonial Revival in style. Examples of his work were published in a number of early 20th century journals including *Carpentry and Building*, *The Builder's Journal* and *Concrete*. It appears that Wigglesworth did not always primarily work as an architect. Draft records indicate that in 1917 he was chief draftsman for the John H. Hammond Jr. Cruft factory in Cambridge and at the time of World War II he was an engineer for Fay Spofford and Thorndike in Boston. Wigglesworth was still living in Belmont in 1955 but died in Newburgh, New York in 1958.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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