

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

18-65	Boston North	O	BLM.45
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**Town/City:** Belmont

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

**Address:** 26-28 Cedar Road

**Historic Name:** Howard Stone House

**Uses:** Present: single family dwelling

Original: two family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** 1911

**Source:** building permit

**Style/Form:** Craftsman

**Architect/Builder:** H. Thaxter Underwood

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: not visible

Wall/Trim: stucco, wood

Roof: slate

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
garage (1919)

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

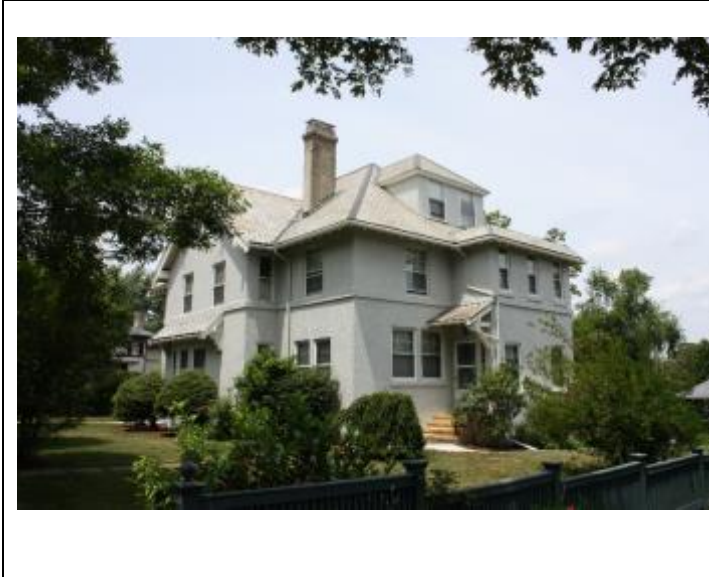
**Condition:** good

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

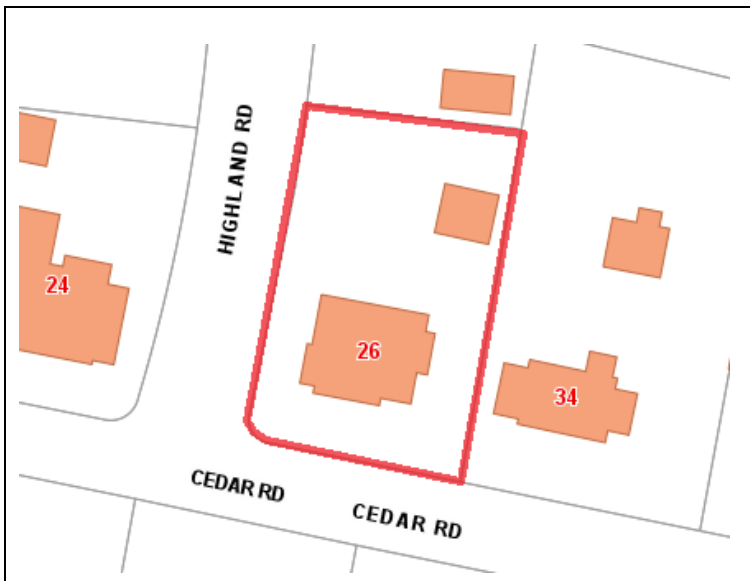
**Acreage:** 15,164 SF

**Setting:** neighborhood of distinctive single family dwellings dating to early 20<sup>th</sup> 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

26-28 CEDAR ROAD

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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 1911, the house at 26-28 Cedar Road is an unusual variation on the Craftsman style. The stuccoed 2 ½-story dwelling combines a cross gable plan with additional hip-roofed volumes including wings and dormers giving the house an irregular geometric massing. The roof is clad in slate shingles and displays decorative rakings on the gables and exposed rafter tails on the overhanging eaves. Although designed as a two-family, the entrances are not identical. The main entry is accessed from a sunporch at the southwest corner while the other is located at the east end of the façade and is capped by a shed-roofed hood set on brackets. A longer shed-roofed hood with exposed rafters and brackets shelters a bay window on the first floor gable front and on the rear elevation. Windows include a mix of double-hung 6/1 sash and multi-light casements.

To the north (rear) of the house, facing Highland Road, is a stuccoed garage capped by a hip roof with exposed rafter tails. The garage is fitted with two modern overhead doors. The garage was built several years after the original house but designed by the same architect (Underwood).

This former two-family residence is unusual for being architect-designed. It was featured in the real estate brochure which advertised the Walnut Hill development. Like the other houses in the neighborhood built prior to 1930, it exhibits an original design and has a stuccoed exterior. The other buildings range in style and include examples of the English Manor, Craftsman, Prairie and Colonial Revival.

## 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 Walnut Hill which was developed by prominent local resident Winthrop L. Cheney. The subdivision was uncommon in Belmont in that it was intended to be a gradual, lot by lot development with lots distributed to "desirable purchasers, to maintain the character of the neighborhood". This property comprises Lot 27 and part of lot 31 on the 1910 Plan (Plan Book 192, Plan 13) and was sold by Winthrop Cheney to Howard A. Stone in February 1911 (Book 3583, Page 261). According to the town building permits, the building was constructed in 1911 and designed by local architect H. Thaxter Underwood (d.1949). It was built as a two-family dwelling.

Howard A. Stone was a salesman of undertaking supplies. He appears to have only lived here briefly before moving to Weston. Anna Cora Stone was living here in 1912. In 1918 Mrs. Emily Reed, widow of Edwin, was living at #26 while Miss Anna Cora Stone was at #28. Building department records indicate that in 1919 Mrs. Reed applied for a building permit to erect a garage. It was designed by Thaxter Underwood and built by Samuel Alcock.

In 1920 the property was sold by Howard Stone to Harold Scheibe (Book 4360, Page 520). Scheibe worked as the manager of a glass cutting factory. In 1930 he was awarded a U.S. Patent (1819126) for a glass push plate that prevented doors from getting soiled by fingerprints. The Scheibes occupied part of the house while renting out an apartment. In 1940 the tenant was Bertha Wiener. The property was sold by the Scheibes to Francis and Josephine Curtin in 1957 (Book 8995, Page 365). He was employed as an insurance agent. Francis Curtin died in 2001 and his widow sold the house the following year.

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This house was designed by local architect, H. Thaxter Underwood. Herbert Thaxter Underwood (1872-1950) was the son of Dr. George Underwood and grandson of William Underwood, founder of the food concern. He was born in Boston and was a graduate of Boston English High School. He came to Belmont as a young man. It is not known where Thaxter Underwood received his architectural training but he was in practice by 1904. He maintained an office in Boston but designed a number of buildings in Belmont. Working with his uncle, landscape architect Loring Underwood, Thaxter designed the locker rooms/bathhouse for the Underwood Pool (1911) the same year that the house at 26-28 Cedar Road was built. Other municipal commissions included the Roger Wellington School (1917), Butler School (1930), and Belmont Police Station (1930). He was also architect for the S.S. Pierce Commercial Block in Cushing Square and a number of local residences including 65 Clark Street, 1 Clover Street, 65 Common Street, 36 Hillcrest Road, and 91 Kilburn Road. Out-of-town commissions included the Sacred Heart Rectory and Convent in Malden and Woodlawn Cemetery Chapel in Acton. Outside of his architectural practice, Underwood served on the Belmont Board of Assessors for twenty-eight years and was a director of the Waverly Cooperative Bank.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Garage (1919), also designed by H. Thaxter Underwood