

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

6-131	Boston North	D	BLM.737
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**Town/City:** Belmont

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):  
Payson Park

**Address:** 19 Chester Road

**Historic Name:**

**Uses:** Present: two family dwelling

Original: two family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** 1916

**Source:** building permit

**Style/Form:** Craftsman

**Architect/Builder:** Howard Clark, builder

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: concrete block

Wall/Trim: wood shingles, wood

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
garage (1922)

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

2005 – replaced one of three front windows with door

**Condition:** good

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

**Acreage:** 5,108 SF

**Setting:** block of early 20<sup>th</sup> century one and two-family dwellings

## Photograph



## Locus Map (north at top)



**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Belmont Historic District Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): November 2014

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

19 CHESTER ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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.*

A highly-detailed and well-preserved example of an eclectic early 20<sup>th</sup> century duplex, 19 Chester Road rests on a rusticated concrete block foundation and is clad in wood shingles. The 2 ½-story gable-fronted two-family was arranged with one unit over the other accessed by a common front door (a second front door was added in 2005). The deep eaves with exposed rafter tails, the prominent front porch with paired columns and trellis inserts and the three-sided bay window are all borrowed from the Craftsman style. The mix of windows include 6/1 double-hung units of various sizes, used individually, paired and in sets of three, as well as small diamond-paned units. A two-story enclosed porch spans the rear elevation.

A paved driveway extends along the east side of the house, terminating at a (1922) concrete two-car garage with parapet front and two modern overhead doors.

## 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.*

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century William H. Poole, a piano manufacturer who lived at 386 Common Street, owned land in Belmont south of Washington Street and east of Common Street. In 1904 he purchased an 8.5-acre piece in the Chester Road area from the Whitney Estate. In 1910 he bought an additional 12.5-acre section from Mrs. Mercy Woodin, giving him 21 acres between Washington Street and Payson Park. Poole died in 1915 and in 1916 the land was sold to Francis H. Benson who subdivided it. The tract was quickly developed into modest suburban one and two family homes, many of which were built on speculation. Development was fueled by proximity to the streetcar line and the success of the nearby Payson Park Land Company's ventures.

This particular lot (Lot 5 on the 1916 plan) was purchased by Harold H. Clark of Somerville who was both a general contractor and real estate agent. Clark took out a mortgage of \$5,000 and built the two-family dwelling which he sold in June 1917 to E. Elizabeth Brigham of Brookline (Book 4139, Page 593). In 1919 Brigham sold the property to Ella Cheney, a divorced woman who lived here with her two children while renting out the other unit to Earle Stockman, an auto salesman (1920 Census). The property was owned briefly by Frederick and Laura White of Winthrop before being purchased by William K. Crawford in 1922 (Book 4505, Page 514). Crawford was a stationary engineer who worked for a candy company and lived here with his wife Martha. Their daughter Lily was also living here with her husband Henry Chisholm, also an engineer, and their three children. In 1922 Henry Chisholm was granted a building permit for a concrete block garage. In 1940 the Crawfords shared the house with grandson Robert Chisholm and granddaughter Charlotte Chisholm. In 1946 the property was conveyed by Martha Crawford's estate to Robert Chisholm (Book 6989, Page 330). It was sold by Robert and Wilma Chisholm in 1977 (Book 13163, Page 265).

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