

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

16-6	Boston North		BLM.753
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Town/City: Belmont

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



Address: 389 Common Street

Historic Name: Cushing Gate House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1870

Source: visual inspection

Style/Form: Victorian Eclectic

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: not visible

Wall/Trim: aluminum siding

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

garage (1920)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

ca. 1915 – front porch

ca. 1925 – addition to rear

1927 – sun porch

date unknown – siding, front dormers

Condition: fair (due to siding)

Moved: no yes **Date:** 1893

Acreage: 5,888 SF

Setting: level, irregularly-shaped lot with stonewall along sidewalk

Locus Map



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): November 2014

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

389 COMMON STREET

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.

This modest 1 ½-story cottage with jerkinhead roof was originally located on the Cushing-Payson Estate and served as housing for a servant or hired help. It is clad in a wide aluminum siding. Historic photos show a simpler structure, clad in clapboards, with 6/6 windows with shutters on either side of a central entrance capped by a flat door hood on brackets. The present front porch with its matching jerkinhead roof and glazed walls was added between 1915 and 1922 (Sanborn maps). A single-story, flat-roofed sunporch addition with roof balustrade is located to the south and was added in 1927 according to building permits. It is not known when the dormers were added to the front roof slope; a brick chimney rises from the ridge.

To the northwest of the house is a one-car garage capped by a jerkinhead roof. According to building permits, it was built in 1920 by A. J. Peterson who lived on Beech Street. A mortared stone wall runs along the front sidewalk.

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 building was originally the gate house on the Cushing-Payson estate. Samuel Payson purchased J.P. Cushing's estate "Bellmont" after Cushing's death in 1862. He subsequently sold the property to the Payson Park Land Company in 1886.

According to historian Richard Betts, the gate house was moved from Belmont Street by Thomas L. Creeley to its present location in 1893 (Betts 2012: 179). Creeley lived in a house at 375 Common Street (no longer extant) and was a prominent market gardener. Based on building permits it appears that Harriet Cummings owned the house by 1920. In 1951 Mildred Langley deeded a half interest to Roscoe Cummings. The property was sold by Rita Cummings in 1988. Later owners included Joseph Rizzo and Nancy Waters. Mary Connelly bought the house in 1991 and sold it to Donna Goolkasian, the present owner, in 1995.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Belmont: The Architecture and Development of the Town of Homes. Prepared for the Belmont Historic District Commission, 1984.

Betts, Richard B. *The Streets of Belmont and How they Were Named (2nd edition).* Belmont: Belmont Historical Society, 2012.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA

Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1915, 1922, 1931, 1949.

Town of Belmont, Building Department files.

U.S. Census, various years.

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Undated photograph of house in original location

Source: *Belmont: The Architecture and Development of the Town of Homes*, p. 72