

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

6-172	Boston North	B	BLM.755
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Town/City: Belmont

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

Address: 410 Common Street

Historic Name: Henry Ellison House

Uses: Present: two family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1890

Source: maps

Style/Form: Queen Anne

Architect/Builder: original unknown
1940 alt. – Arland Dirlam, architect

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: aluminum siding

Roof: slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
garage (1927)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1940 – remodeled into a two family dwelling

Condition: fair (due to siding)

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 11,062 SF

Setting: late 19th century dwelling set in early 20th century neighborhood

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): October 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

410 COMMON STREET

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.

The house at 410 Common Street is a Queen Anne style dwelling which is one of the earlier homes in the Payson Park neighborhood. True to the style, the 2 ½-story dwelling displays an asymmetrical profile with a profusion of projecting bays, gables, porches, and dormers and a circular tower at the southwest corner, capped by an ogee roof with copper finial. The house retains its slate roof but the walls were covered many years ago with aluminum siding. An historic photograph (attached) suggests that decorative trim including paneling details, a bracketed cornice and window shutters were covered or removed at that time. Fenestration consists primarily of double-hung 1/1 replacement sash. Notable surviving details include the front door and distinctive twisted front porch posts.

The house is setback from the street with a small area of level lawn in front of the house. The informally landscaped level lot has a low mortared stone retaining wall along the sidewalk and two granite posts with pyramidal caps, which mark the front sidewalk. A paved driveway extends to the north of the house, terminating at a hip-roofed two car garage constructed in 1927.

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 Queen Anne style dwelling was built after the 1889 Walker map but before 1898 when it is shown on the Stadley map of Belmont. The home was featured on the front of the Payson Park Land Company's 1898 brochure, predates many homes in the neighborhood, and is also notable for being owned by the same family for over 100 years. The first known owners were Henry and Harriet Ellison. Henry Malcolm Ellison, a farmer, was born in Vermont in 1834 and married Harriet Harlow in Charlestown, New Hampshire in 1859. Henry Ellison died in 1898 and was buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery. His widow continued to live here until her death in 1922. In 1910 she was living here with her son William, also a farmer, his wife Phoebe and a servant. After Phoebe's death, William remarried. His second wife Alice was a schoolteacher. In 1930 the house was occupied by William, Alice, and their son Malcolm. William Ellison died in 1931 and in 1940 Mrs. Ellison remodeled the single family residence into a two-family dwelling. The architect for the project was Arland Dirlam; the builder was Harold Johnson. Alice Ellison continued to live here into the 1950s with her son Malcolm and his wife Jean. Malcolm Ellison (1915-2010) was a graduate of Babson College and worked in Boston for Cole-Hersee, manufacturer of electrical switches and connectors, for many years. Malcolm Ellison died in 2010 and is also buried at Mount Auburn. The house was sold by his estate in 2013 (Book 61723, Page 29).

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Belmont: The Architecture and Development of the Town of Homes.* Prepared for the Belmont Historic District Comm., 1984.
- Betts, Richard B. *The Streets of Belmont and How they Were Named* (2nd edition). Belmont: Belmont Historical Society, 2012.
- Massachusetts Historical Commission, MACRIS database.
- Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA
- Payson Park Land Company brochure, no date.
- Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1922, 1931, 1949.
- Stadley, George W. *Atlas of the Towns of Watertown, Belmont, Arlington, and Lexington.* 1898.
- Town of Belmont, Building Department files.
- U.S. Census, various dates.
- Walker, G.H. *Atlas of Middlesex County, Massachusetts.* Boston: G.H. Walker, 1889.
- <http://www.brownandhickey.com/obituary/Malcolm-W-Ellison/Belmont-MA/876164>



ONE OF THE HOUSES ON THE PAYSON PARK PROPERTY.

Payson Park Land Company brochure