

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

5-61	Boston North	B	BLM.788
------	--------------	---	---------

Town/City: Belmont

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

Photograph



Address: 63 Oak Avenue

Historic Name: Jesse Eddy House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1906 (by 1909)

Source: directories

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

shed

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

2002 – rear porch extended

Locus Map



Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 6,394 SF

Setting: neighborhood of similar early 20th century dwellings on small, informally landscaped lots.

Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): November 2014

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

63 OAK AVENUE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

B

BLM.788

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 63 Oak Avenue is one of a handful of well-preserved 2 ½-story, 3 x 2-bay dwellings built on the east side of Oak Avenue according to the same plan. In this case the house is sheathed in wood clapboards and capped by a hip roof. It displays a number of Colonial Revival style details including two story corner pilasters, a modillioned cornice with wide frieze, entablature lintels and clusters of three Doric columns supporting the porch roof. Like its neighbors, it also has a variety of window types including double-hung windows with six lights or diamond panes in the upper sash, oriel windows on the side elevations, and tripartite windows on the second floor over the entrance porch and also in the attic above.

This is one of a number of well-preserved, wood-shingled dwellings in the Payson Park neighborhood displaying the influence of the Colonial Revival, Queen Anne, Shingle and/or Craftsman styles.

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 is located within the Payson Park subdivision which occupies land that was originally part of J.P. Cushing's estate, "Bellmont". After Cushing's death in 1862, the estate was purchased by Samuel Payson who sold the property to the Payson Park Land Company in 1886. The former estate was developed in three stages between 1886 and 1920 by the trustees who included Costello Converse of Malden, William Faxon, Jr. of Cohasset and Andrew Reed of Belmont. Oak Avenue was laid out in 1889 and the houses on the street date from 1902 to 1928, fueled in large part by the arrival of the streetcar line along Belmont Street in 1898. The deeds for the Oak Avenue lots included restrictions that were in effect until 1912. These limited development to a single house and stable, prohibited the sale of liquor or offensive trade and required a setback of 25' from Oak Avenue.

This was lot 36 of the Payson Park subdivision. The 1898 Plan of Payson Park shows a vacant lot. Acorn Street had not yet been laid out. The house was constructed sometime between 1898 and 1909 when it is shown on the 1909 Plan. According to the *Belmont Tribune*, at least four houses were built on Oak Avenue in 1906 by builders Loomer & Allen (Guy Loomer and Alonzo Allen). This may have been one of those houses.

On January 23, 1909 the *Belmont Tribune* reported that A.C. (?) Eddy of Allston had moved to Oak Avenue. The 1909 directory lists Jesse Eddy as living at 63 Oak Avenue. Jesse Eddy was a clothing salesman who worked in Boston. At the time of the 1910 Census Jesse Eddy was 40 years old, living here with his wife Annie, a son James (11), daughter Margaret (9) and a servant. By 1917 the house was owned and occupied by Byron William Reed, an attorney, and his wife Edna. The couple had married in 1911 after his graduation from Harvard Law School. They were still living here in 1930 with their son who was an orchestra musician.

The house was rented by John and Annie Power beginning in the 1930s and they purchased the house in 1945. John R. Power was a stock broker. In 1940 the couple was living here with their two daughters, as well as John's father, brother, sister, and niece. The house at 63 Oak Avenue was sold by the Powers' daughter, Joan Timmins, in 1982 to Otakar and Hildy Dvorak (Book 14652, Page 1). It was owned by the Dvoraks until 2000. John and Carol Long owned the house from 2000 to 2006 when it was sold to Charles and Deborah Douglis. Robert and Michele Hogan purchased the property in 2014 (Book 64163, Page 276).

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

63 OAK AVENUE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

B	BLM.788
---	---------

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Ancestry.com.

Belmont Directories, various dates.

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

Belmont Tribune, February 16, 1906; January 23, 1909.

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

Cini, Marcia M. Area form for Payson Park (BLM.B), 1982.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA

Payson Park Land Company Brochures, 1898, 1909.

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

Stadley, George W. *Atlas of the Towns of Watertown, Belmont, Arlington, and Lexington.* 1898.

U.S. Census, various dates.