

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

3-195	Boston North	B	BLM.5
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Town/City: Belmont

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

Address: 15 Oakley Road

Historic Name: Dr. Sherman Lancaster House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1919

Source: building permit

Style/Form: Craftsman

Architect/Builder: S. F. Sutherland

Exterior Material:

Foundation: fieldstone

Wall/Trim: fieldstone/wood half timbering/stucco

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

2002- one story add. above stone garage

2011- some window replacements

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

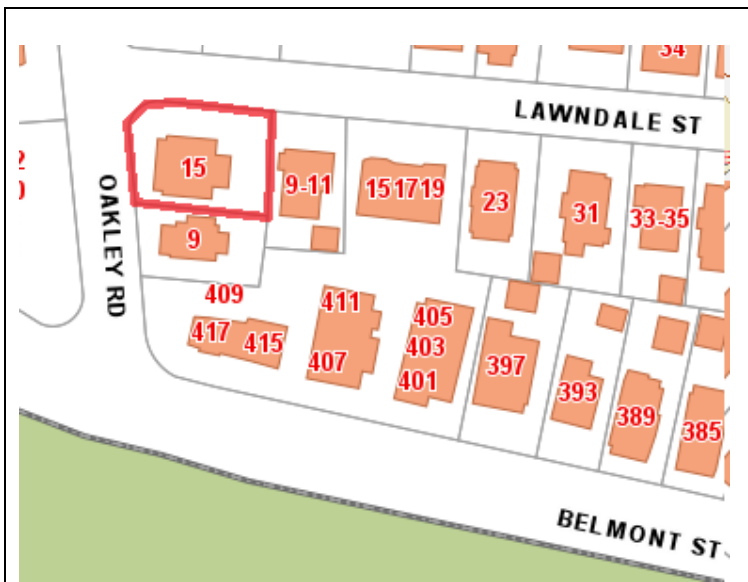
Acreage: 10,315 SF

Setting: densely populated residential neighborhood dating to late 19th and early 20th c.

Photograph



Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): May 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

15 OAKLEY ROAD

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.

Located at the southeast corner of Oakley Road and Lawndale Street, 15 Oakley Road is a well-preserved example of a Craftsman-inspired Four Square house. Typical of the style, the two-story dwelling is boxy in form and capped by a hip roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails and a hip dormer rises from the front slope. What distinguishes this house from other similar houses in town are the unusual, intact porches on the façade and north elevations. The porch facing Oakley Road is five bays wide and supported by Doric columns which support a wide two-part frieze with brackets. The central bay is arched and has fluted blocks over each column. Underneath the porch, the front door is flanked by full sidelights. A smaller version of the front porch on the north side also has an arched profile with brackets and Doric columns and shelters a glass-and-panel door. There is a tripartite set of windows on either side of the front door and 6/1 sash elsewhere. The front dormer retains distinctive windows including a central “starred” window and Queen Anne types with a border of small glass panes on either side.

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. Oakley Road was lotted in 1912 but this was one of the last houses constructed in the neighborhood.

Deed research indicates that in Nov. 1916 Alfred Fuller of Harvard sold the lot to Dr. Sherman Lancaster of Cambridge (Book 4096, Page 399). Dr. Lancaster applied for a building permit in July 1919; the architect/builder of the home was S.F. Sutherland. No additional information was found concerning Sutherland.

At the time of the 1920 Census Dr. Lancaster was single and living in Cambridge. By 1922 the present house had been built and he was living with his wife Alice (see Sanborn map and directories). Sherman Lancaster died about 1930 but his wife continued to live here for many years. The house was sold by her estate in 1964 to the Catholic Church (Book 10711, Page 414). At the time Our Lady of Mercy Church was located around the corner at 399 Belmont Street (it was demolished in 2010). The house was owned by Brian and Judith Gilligan from 1978 to 1992. It was purchased by the present owners, Elizabeth Gibson and Neil Goldstein, in 1992 (Book 22163, Page 476).

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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.

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Town of Belmont, Building Department files.

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