

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

7-68	Boston North	F	BLM.33
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Town/City: Belmont

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

Address: 163-165 Oakley Road

Historic Name: Chenery House

Uses: Present: condominiums

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1830

Source: visual inspection

Style/Form: Greek Revival (altered)

Architect/Builder: Underwood, H.T. (1923)

Exterior Material:

Foundation: fieldstone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1923 – moved and turned into two-family, ell added
ca. 1980 – dormers added
2004-2005 – new windows

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:** 1923

Acreage: less than ¼ acre

Setting: corner lot in early 20th century subdivision

Photograph



Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): Dec. 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

163 OAKLEY 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.

The house at 163 Oakley Road is an early 19th century farm house which was moved here in 1923 and modified for use as a two-family dwelling. The 2 ½-story, 5 x 2-bay side-gabled dwelling is set on a fieldstone foundation and clad in wood clapboards. It is capped by a gable roof with eaves that overhang slightly but are without returns. Two brick chimneys rise from the rear slope. The center entrance contains a six-panel door which is flanked by full sidelights, typical of the Greek Revival style. The gable entrance porch set on Doric columns was added after the building was moved. Windows on the structure contain 1/1 replacement sash; the first floor façade windows are elongated which is also a Greek Revival feature. The small windows above the entrance porch were likely also a ca. 1920 addition as is the rear ell. The two gable dormers on the front slope and the shed dormer on the rear were all added in the 1980s.

To the northeast of the house there is a two-car garage that was restructured in 1989. The house occupies a small corner lot surrounded by 20th century homes on similar sized lots.

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 originally stood on the south side of Washington Street. According to Building Department records it was moved in late 1922 or early 1923 from 161 Washington Street. (Betts incorrectly states that it originally stood on the site of the Chenery Middle School.)

It is known that, prior to the move, the house was owned by the Chenery family but its exact early history remains somewhat unclear. The 1875, 1889 and 1898 maps all show the property on the south side as being owned by Charles H. Chenery. As shown on all three maps, the property included a mansard-roofed farmhouse that was later moved to 63 Hurd Road but do not show this house. What is now 163 Oakley Road does however appear to show on the 1922 Sanborn map, to the east of the main farmhouse.

Charles Hurd Chenery died in 1915 and the property south of Washington Street was inherited by Mollie Jackson. The 1918 and 1922 directories show Frank and Mollie Jackson living at 161 Washington Street. In November 1922 the Jacksons applied for a building permit to move what is now 163 Oakley Road. Soon thereafter they subdivided the acreage into 67 house lots. Local architect H.T. Underwood was retained to modify the building into a two-family and a building permit was filed in January 1923. At the time the building had a slate roof.

In April 1923 Frank and Mollie Jackson sold the house to Arthur Hough and Warren Reid (Book 4602, Page 216). Arthur Hough (1880-1942) was first elected Belmont Town Clerk in 1917 and served in that capacity until his death in 1942. He lived in one half of the house with his wife Mary and his mother-in-law. The other part of the house was occupied by Reid, a telephone engineer, his wife Ruth and their two children. The Houghs and the Reids sold the building to Everett Dewar in 1941. Everett, who was in real estate, occupied half of the house with his wife Vera while Russell and Loretta Dewar lived in the other. The house was sold by Loretta Dewar in 1988 to Richard and Nicholas LaFauci (Book 19033, Page 434). It was converted into two condominiums in 2001.

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Assessors' photo