

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

5-6	Boston North	B	BLM.306 BLM.795
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**Town/City:** Belmont

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

**Address:** 48 Oakley Road

**Historic Name:** McArdle-Carrington House

**Uses:** Present: two family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** 1908

**Source:** building permit

**Style/Form:** Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:** James W. McArdle, contractor

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: brick, stone

Roof: slate

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

stable/garage (1908) BLM.795

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

**Condition:** good

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

**Acreage:** 13,764 SF

**Setting:** densely populated residential neighborhood  
dating to late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> c.

## Photograph



## Locus Map (north at top)



**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Belmont Historic District Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): July 2014

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

48 OAKLEY ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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BLM.306  
BLM.795

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 48 Oakley Road is a highly detailed and well preserved brick Colonial Revival dwelling constructed in 1908 by a prominent contractor for his own use. The 2 ½-story, 5 x 4-bay dwelling is capped by a slate hip roof with modillions and dentils under the projecting eaves. A wide, single-story pedimented portico projects from the center entrance. It is supported by Ionic columns with modillions and dentils and Ionic pilasters are mounted on either side of the entrance which contains a six-panel door flanked by partial sidelights. Above the entrance porch there is a Palladian window set into a brick recess with contrasting keystone and impost blocks. The other windows contain 12/12 sash with stone sills and splayed lintels with central keystones. The first floor façade windows are set into shallow brick arches with keystones. Three pedimented dormers rise from the front roof slope and contain 6/6 sash. A single-story porch spans the south end of the building and is also detailed with modillions and dentils.

Behind the house is a brick stable (BLM.795) capped by a hip roof and also decorated by modillions and dentils. It was also constructed in 1908.

## 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. This was lot 160 on the 1903 plan.

In July 1908 Nellie and James McArdle applied for a building permit. At the time the couple was living at 117 Elm Street in West Somerville. James McArdle was a well-known building contractor with offices in Boston. He was born in Canada about 1862. He and his wife Nellie and daughter Doris lived here only a few years before building and moving next door to 38 Oakley Road which they built in 1912. In 1912 the McArdles sold the house at 48 Oakley Road to Fitz Roy Carrington of New York (Book 3749, Page 317; 3759, page 469). Fitz Roy Carrington (1869-1954) was an American editor, born in England. He was appointed curator of prints at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts in 1912 and served in that position until 1921. During the same period he was also a lecturer at Harvard.

The house was owned briefly by Homer Rawson before being sold to Mary Farrell in 1921 (Book 4480, Page 27). Mrs. Farrell sold the house in 1941 to Charles and Mary Egan who owned it until 1955. The house had a succession of short-term owners before it was purchased by the Young family in 1976. The Young family continues to own the property today.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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U.S. Census, various dates.

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**National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form**

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible       Eligible **only** in a historic district
- Contributing to a potential historic district       Potential historic district

Criteria:     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations:     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Statement of Significance by       Lisa Mausolf        
*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The house at 48 Oakley Road appears to be eligible for the National Register with local significance under Criterion C as a good example of the Colonial Revival style, dating to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was designed and erected in 1908 by a prominent local builder, James McArdle, for his own family's use. The house retains a high degree of integrity and is also notable for retaining its original (1908) brick stable.