

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: single 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 19th and early 20th 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

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 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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