

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

3-196	Boston North	B	BLM.794
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

**Town/City:** Belmont

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

**Address:** 9 Oakley Road

**Historic Name:** Howard Flint House

**Uses:** Present: single family dwelling  
Original: single family dwelling

**Date of Construction:** 1917

**Source:** building permit

**Style/Form:** Dutch Colonial

**Architect/Builder:** Frederick H. Gowing

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: stone/concrete block

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards, wood

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
none

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):  
date? – enclosure of end porch

**Condition:** good

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

**Acreage:** 4,968 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*): May 2016

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

9 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.*

The house at 9 Oakley Road is a good example of a gambrel-roofed Dutch Colonial home of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In an attempt to fit the small lot, the house has been oriented with its end to the street which is somewhat unusual. It is set on a concrete block foundation and is clad in wood clapboards. Centered on the three-bay façade is an arched entrance porch with paired posts and lattice side walls. On either side is a tripartite window consisting of a central 8/1 flanked by multi-light sash. A full shed dormer spans the front roof slope and a single-story porch is located on either end.

## 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, and this was part of lot 84 of that subdivision.

Deeds indicate that in 1916 Alfred C. Fuller of Harvard sold this lot measuring 4,968 SF to Howard and Inez Flint of Cambridge (Book 4091, Page 1). The deed carried a restriction prohibiting the construction of anything but a single family dwelling and private garage for five years. The Flints had married in 1909. Howard was a real estate agent in Boston. Howard Flint was granted a building permit in February 1917. The house was designed by architect Frederick H. Gowing who had offices at 101 Tremont Street in Boston. The builder was David Robert of Cambridge and the cost of the home was \$4,500.

By 1951 Howard Flint had passed away and Inez Flint deeded the house to the Roman Catholic Church although she was still living here in 1955. (Our Lady of Mercy Church was formerly located nearby at 399 Belmont Street but was demolished in 2010.) The Church sold the house in 1977 to Leif and Regina Rosenberger (Book 13199, Page 292). Herbert Dorris purchased the property in 1981 and the family still owns it today.

Architect Frederick H. Gowing was in practice from 1903 to 1929 and was a versatile and prolific architect, working in many of the popular styles of the day (Fannin Lehner 1986). In 1926 Gowing was quoted as saying that his office planned 2,000 homes each year. Key to this was the fact that he sold books of building plans. The house at 9 Oakley Road bears a striking resemblance to the house in a 1927 advertisement for his books (see continuation sheet). The MACRIS data base includes listings for 45 buildings designed by Gowing including residences in Arlington, Boston, Brookline, Newton, Quincy, Watertown and Wellesley. Gowing also designed 6 Raleigh Road in Belmont in 1919.

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## *BUILDING PLANS*

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**FREDERICK H. GOWING, Architect**  
101 Tremont Street                      Boston, Mass.

A 1927 Ad for Gowing's Building Plan Books