

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

7-97	Boston North	B	BLM.799
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Town/City: Belmont

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

Address: 230 Payson Road

Historic Name: John Gill House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1890

Source: maps

Style/Form: Queen Anne

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: not visible

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding, wood shingles

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1987 - siding

Condition: fair (due to siding)

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 15,261 SF

Setting: mixed residential area opposite Cambridge reservoir

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): May 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

230 PAYSON ROAD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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 across from the Cambridge Reservoir, 230 Payson Road is a 2 ½-story late 19th century Queen Anne-style dwelling that was built a few years before many of the homes in the Payson Park area. Most of the L-shaped building is clad in vinyl siding although a number of decorative details survive. These include staggered butt and diamond pattern shingles in multiple gables and gable pents, a bracketed cornice, cutaway corners, a circular upstairs balcony, tall brick chimneys and a single-story wrap-around porch supported by turned brackets that becomes a porte cochere on the principal (west) façade. Among the varied window shapes is an arched window over the porte cochere consisting of a double-hung unit flanked by multi-light side panels.

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 late 19th century house is located within the Payson Park subdivision but predates many of the homes in the neighborhood. Like its neighbors the house stands on 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.

There is no house on this site at the time of the 1889 Walker Atlas. However it was built prior to 1898 as it is shown on the 1898 Payson Park Land Company brochure as standing on Lot 76, surrounded by vacant (but sold) lots. The first known owner of the house was John Seel Gill (1888-1925) who was living here by 1900. Gill was born in Halifax, England and in 1900 was living here with his wife Harriet, two sons and two daughters. Gill was a watchmaker/jeweler and operated a store in Harvard Square until 1897. By 1920 Gill was living in the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea although his wife continued to live here into the 1930s. A son, Harold Lincoln Gill (1888-1963) lived here for many years. Later owners included Virginia and Ralph Woods and their son Ralph Woods, Jr. from 1966 to 1983. In 1983 Ralph Woods, Jr. conveyed the property to William Greenberg and Arlyn Hoffman (Book 15032, Page 510).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Belmont: The Architecture and Development of the Town of Homes. Prepared for the Belmont Historic District Commission, 1984.

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Payson Park Land Company Brochures, 1898, 1909.

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Stadley, George W. *Atlas of the Towns of Watertown, Belmont, Arlington, and Lexington.* 1898.

U.S. Census, various dates.

Walker, G.H. *Atlas of Middlesex County, Massachusetts.* Boston: G.H. Walker, 1889.