

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

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Town/City: Belmont

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

Address: 38 Raleigh Road

Historic Name: John W. Ellis House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1920

Source: building permit

Style/Form: Bungalow

Architect/Builder: Aladdin Co. (house plans);
John Butt, carpenter

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: wood shingles

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

garage (1922)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

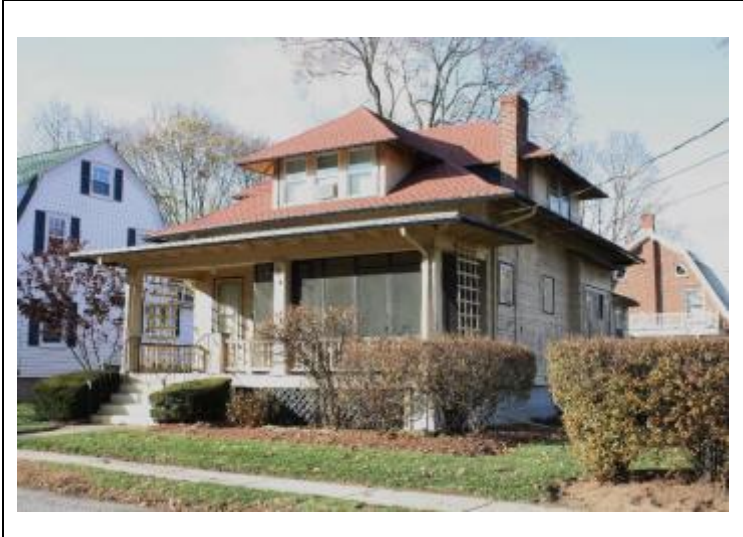
Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 5,400 SF

Setting: neighborhood of modest early 20th century residences

Photograph



Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): November 2015

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

38 RALEIGH 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.

Located at the northwest corner of Raleigh and Bellevue Roads, 38 Raleigh Road is a good surviving example of a "Sheffield" house constructed in 1920 from plans and/or a kit obtained from the Aladdin Company of Bay City, Michigan. The well-preserved 1 ½-story hip roofed bungalow is clad in a distinctive pattern of wood shingles alternating courses with narrow and wider reveals (described as a "double shingle effect" in the catalog). The house is capped by a steeply pitched hip roof with wide overhanging eaves displaying exposed rafter tails (a "Japanese roof effect" according to the Aladdin catalog). Large hip roofed dormers are centered on each slope and the house is fronted by a single-story, two-bay porch supported by posts with paneled caps with a squat post at the top of the stairs, stick balusters and lattice trellises at either end. The eaves of the porch also display exposed rafters. Windows contain 1/1 sash.

Behind the house and facing Bellevue Road there is a two-car garage constructed of rusticated concrete blocks and capped by a hip roof. According to building permits it was constructed in 1922.

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 lot was part of a larger parcel of land owned by William H. Poole, a piano manufacturer, in the early 20th century. After his death in 1915 it was sold to Francis H. Benson who subdivided it into small lots for houses. The portion of land that is today Raleigh Road, York Road, Bellevue Road and part of Carleton was laid out in 1918. This is Lot 42 of the subdivision (Plan Book 280, Plan 43).

According to Town Building Department records, the plans for this house were obtained from the Aladdin Company in Bay City, Michigan. The house, known as "The Sheffield" appeared in the Spring 1919 Aladdin catalog. John W. Ellis was given a building permit in April 1920. The house was constructed by a Watertown carpenter, John Butt, using Aladdin plans or an Aladdin kit. The Aladdin Company of Bay City, Michigan was one of America's most long-lived manufacturers of mail-order, "kit homes." The company was begun in 1906 by two brothers, Otto and William Sovereign; it continued to manufacture houses until 1981. Over 75,000 homes were sold over this period. Other companies which sold building plans, materials, and kit houses in the early 20th century included Sears and Roebuck and Montgomery Ward.

John W. Ellis is shown as living at 38 Raleigh Road in the 1922 town directory but occupied the house only briefly. Thomas Coyle was living here in 1925. Dr. Theodore Hoch, Assistant Commissioner of the State Department of Mental Diseases was the owner occupant in the late 1920s, living here with his wife Lenora. Dr. Hoch died in 1932 and the house was rented out from the 1930s to the 1950s to Alfred and Margaret Chapman. Wallace and Elizabeth Lord purchased the house in 1945 (Book 6853, Page 50). It was sold by Elizabeth Lord to Brooke and Helen Albert in 1980. Mrs. Albert died in 2015 and the house is now owned by a trust (Book 46978, Page 402).

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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https://www.cmich.edu/library/clarke/ResearchResources/Michigan_Material_Local/Bay_City_Aladdin_Co/Documents/1919_spring_annual_sales_catalog.pdf
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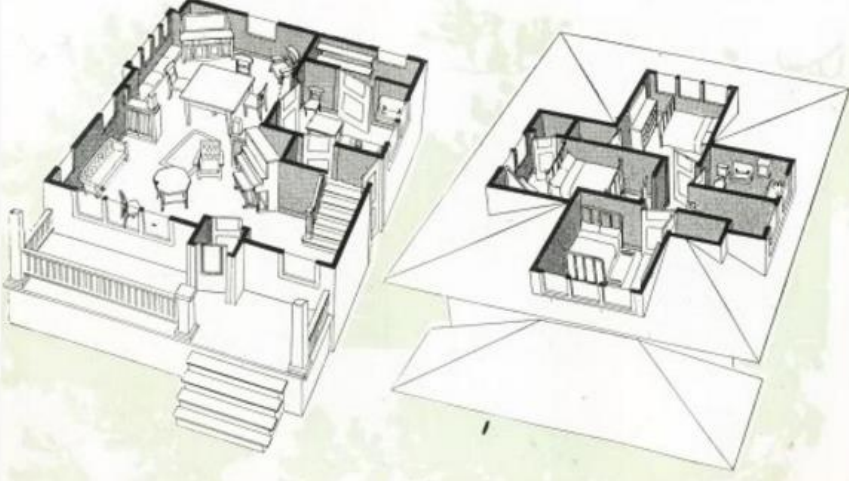
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The Sheffield

See prices on inside of front cover.

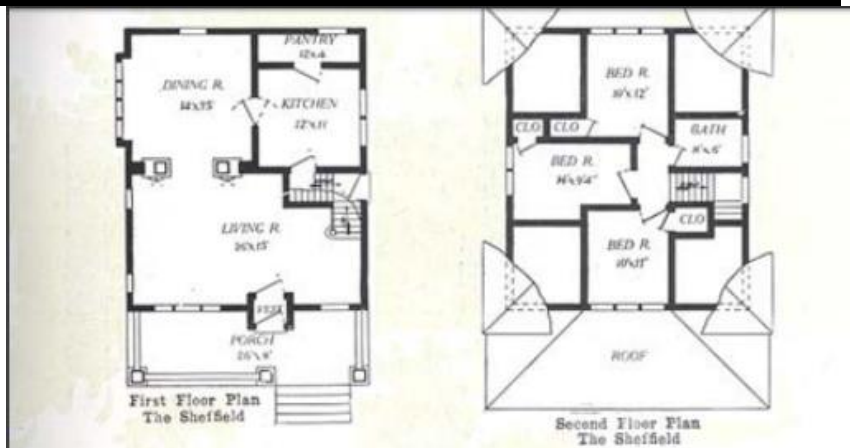
DO not the roof and porch lines of the Sheffield please you? The heavy overhang and Japanese roof effect give an individuality to this attractive home that invariably pleases its owner. Notice the heavy porch columns and exposed scrolled rafters. How well these carry out the general architectural lines. Ascending to the porch by the wide front steps, one is surprised with the size of the porch, 26x8 feet. An attractive front door and a French door lead into and through the vestibule to the living room. Notice the size, 26x15 feet, and the wide archway leading to the well lighted dining room. Arch A-1, page 106, is furnished for



48

Source: *Aladdin Houses*, Spring 1919 catalog. Clarke Historical Library, Central Michigan University.

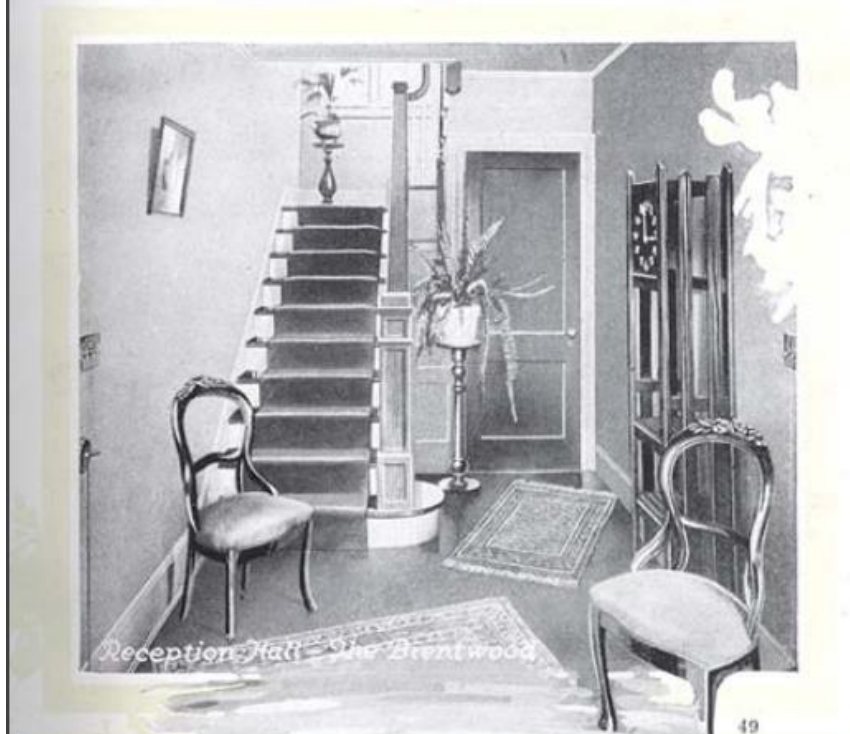
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this archway. A kitchen with pantry and stairs leading to basement and grade entrance complete the first floor. From the living room our easily ascending semi-open stairs lead to a central hall on second floor. Opening off the hallway are three bedrooms and a bath.

While this picture of the Sheffield shows the side walls with the double shingled effect, yet when desired siding without extra cost will be substituted for shingles.

For a substantial, convenient, attractive home, don't you think the Sheffield is one of the best? Refer to inside of front cover for price of the Sheffield. See Terms on page 2 and General Specifications on pages 12 and 13.



Source: *Aladdin Houses*, Spring 1919 catalog. Clarke Historical Library, Central Michigan University.