

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

5-106	Boston North	B	BLM.840
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Town/City: Belmont

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

Photograph



Address: 32 Willow Street

Historic Name: Dr. William C. Hanson House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1900

Source: maps

Style/Form: Shingle/Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: fieldstone

Wall/Trim: wood shingles, wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

garage (1923)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1979 – rear addition

ca.2000 – replacement windows

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 8,962 SF

Setting: neighborhood of similar early 20th century dwellings on small, informally landscaped lots

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

32 WILLOW STREET

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.

Located at the corner of Willow Street and Linden Avenue, 32 Willow Street is an early 20th century dwelling which shows the influence of both the Shingle and Colonial Revival styles. The 2 ½-story, side-gabled dwelling is set on a fieldstone foundation and sheathed in a combination of wood clapboards on the first floor and wood shingles above. The front roof slope extends to shelter the recessed three bay front porch which is supported by Doric columns set on a shingled wall. Underneath the porch the center entrance retains an original wooden door with upper glazed panel. The predominant window is a double-hung 2/1 (replacement) sash and is used in various combinations. A large gabled dormer rises from the front roof slope and consists of three windows at the base with a single window in the pent above. The projecting, angled oriel window on the upper floor of the north elevation is an unusual detail and is supported by a large scroll bracket. A three-sided bay window is located on the opposite elevation.

The level lot is informally landscaped with a single-car detached wood shingled garage located to the rear (west) of the house, accessed by Linden Avenue. According to building department files, it was constructed in 1923.

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 who included Costello Converse of Malden, William Faxon, Jr. of Cohasset and Andrew Reed of Belmont. This was Lot 218 of the Payson Park Land Company's 1901 plan. Willow Street was laid out in 1889 and the houses on the street date from 1902 to 1928, fueled in large part by the arrival of the nearby streetcar line in 1898.

The lot had not yet been sold at the time of the 1898 Payson Park Plan. The 1909 Plan shows the house in place. The earliest known owner was John R. Giles, a 37-year old barber who was living here at the time of the 1910 Census with his wife Mary, two young sons, and a servant. In 1912 Mr. and Mrs. Albert Long were living here. At the time of the 1920 Census Mary Long, a widow, was the owner and occupant. By 1923 this had become the home and office of Dr. William C. Hanson. Dr. Hanson lived here with his wife Leah (Demerritt) who he had married in 1911. Mrs. Hanson died in 1945 and Dr. Hanson died in 1958. They are buried in the East Northwood Cemetery in Northwood, New Hampshire. The property is still owned by members of the Demerritt family today.

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