

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

5-89	Boston North	B	BLM.841 BLM.842
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Town/City: Belmont

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

Address: 41 Willow Street

Historic Name: Charles Merrow House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1910

Source: building permit

Style/Form: Queen Anne/Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: C.Nale, architect/E.J. Robertson, bldr.

Exterior Material:

Foundation: fieldstone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

carriage house (BLM.842)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1917-sunroom

ca. 1922 – front porch extended or rebuilt

2011 & 2014 – new windows

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 7,322 SF

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

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Belmont Historic District Commission

Date (*month / year*): July 2014

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

BELMONT

41 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.

Constructed ca. 1910, 41 Willow Street is a 2 ½-story gablefront dwelling which exhibits elements of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. The house has projecting eaves that end in returns on the façade. Decorative details include cornerboards with flared tops and a sunburst motif in an arch above the attic windows, giving the tripartite window the effect of a Palladian window. The window openings contain 2/1 sash and are capped by entablature lintels. The house is fronted by a single-story porch that originally was limited to the gablefront but was extended to its current length in the 1920s (Sanborn maps). The three bay porch is supported by Doric columns and has a simple stick balustrade. The southern portion is partially enclosed. This appears to be the sunroom mentioned on a 1917 building permit.

The driveway to the north of the house terminates at a two-story, side-gabled carriage house (BLM.842) with center gable wall dormer and cupola. It was originally constructed ca. 1910 at the same time of the house. It was substantially repaired in 1999.

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. 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.

This was Lot 192 of the Payson Park Land Company's 1899 plan. The 1909 Plan of Payson Park shows that the lot had been sold but the house had not yet been erected. In July 1910 Louise Merrow of Watertown was granted a building permit for a house and a stable. The architect was C. Nale and the builder was E.J. Robertson (no further information was found concerning either). By the time of the 1912 directory Charles Merrow was living here (the house was numbered #39 until about 1925). The house and carriage house are also shown on the 1915 Sanborn map. Merrow lived here with his wife Louise whom he had married in 1905.

Charles Francis Merrow (1882-1962) was one of Belmont's best known merchants in the early to mid 20th century. In 1905 he opened a "country store" at the crossroads of Cushing Square (291 Common Street, corner of Trapelo Road and Common Street). He had previously been a clerk in a family grocery store in Cambridge. Six years after opening the store, it was taken over by the Belmont Cooperative Society Market which also had a store in Belmont Center. Merrow retired in 1945 from the Payson Park Market. In 1950 the house was sold by Harold and Martha Clark to Elias and Ethel Drulie (Book 7592, Page 450). Ethel Drulie owned the house until 1997. The present owners, Mary and Nancy Jarzombek, purchased the house in 1997.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Belmont: The Architecture and Development of the Town of Homes*. Prepared for the Belmont Historic District Commission, 1984.
- Belmont Tribune*, June 29, 1962 [obituary of C.F. Merrow].
- Betts, Richard B. *The Streets of Belmont and How they Were Named (2nd edition)*. Belmont: Belmont Historical Society, 2012.
- Cini, Marcia M. Area form for Payson Park (BLM.B), 1982.
- Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA
- Payson Park Land Company Brochures, 1898, 1909.
- Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1915, 1922, 1931, 1949.
- Stadley, George W. *Atlas of the Towns of Watertown, Belmont, Arlington, and Lexington*. 1898.
- Town of Belmont, Building Department files.
- U.S. Census, various dates.



Charles Merrow Store, Common Street and Trapelo Rd., Payson Park, 1905 (no longer extant)

Source: *Belmont: The Architecture and Development of the Town of Homes*, p. 54.

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Telephone Either Store
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C. F. MERROW, Mgr.

1927 Belmont Directory

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Carriage House (BLM.842)

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