

FORM B – BUILDING

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

6-222

Boston
North

B

BLM.17

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

Town/City: Belmont

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

Address: 72 Cushing Avenue

Historic Name: Cecelia Adams House

Uses: Present: single family dwelling

Original: single family dwelling

Date of Construction: 1912

Source: building permit

Style/Form: Bungalow/Craftsman

Architect/Builder: Charles F. Willard, builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

garage (1929)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

ca. 2000 – wood clapboards replace wood shingle,
stucco exterior, half timbering removed

2007 – rear addition

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

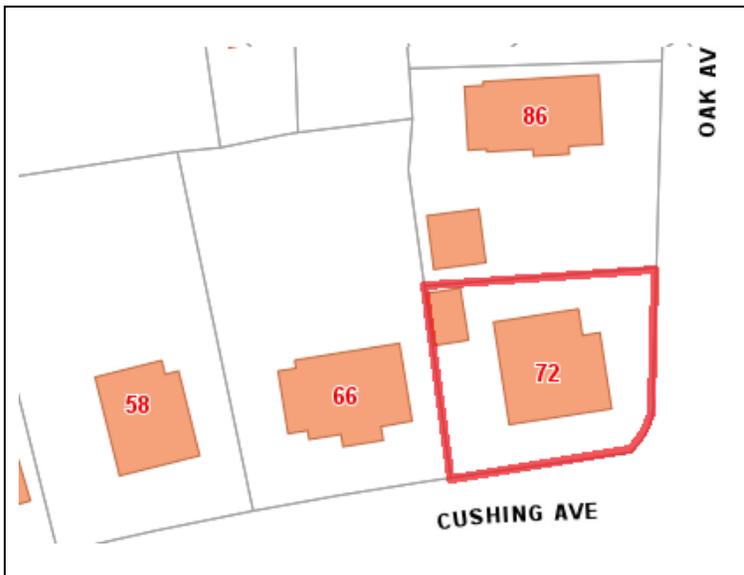
Acreage: 7,392 SF

Setting: corner lot in neighborhood of early 20th century dwellings

Photograph



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

72 CUSHING AVENUE

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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 Cushing Avenue and Oak Avenue, 72 Cushing Avenue is a 1 ½-story, side-gabled bungalow constructed in 1912. The house has suffered some loss of integrity in recent years due to the replacement of the original stucco and shingled exterior with wood clapboards. The decorative half-timbered stickwork in the gables that originally distinguished this house from other local bungalows has also been removed.

Despite the loss of detailing, the house displays various characteristics of the style including a wide eave overhang with triangular knee braces and exposed rafter tails and a large gable dormer on the front roof slope displaying matching eaves details. A recessed porch, three bays wide, spans the façade, with Doric columns supporting the porch roof and smaller versions of the columns support the ends of the dormer roof. A two-bay, shed-roofed porch with the same columns projects from the east elevation. Originally the columns were topped by simple rafters rather than a roof. The predominant window is a 9/1 double-hung replacement sash. A 12' x 15' addition was constructed at the rear of the house in 2007.

A trimmed hedge extends along the front sidewalk with a wooden fence along Oak Avenue. A driveway to the west of the house terminates at a gablefront, single-car garage constructed in 1929.

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 31 of the Payson Park Land Company's 1912 plan.

In 1912 Mrs. Cecelia Adams (b.1862) of Cambridge was issued a building permit for this dwelling. The builder was Charles F. Willard of Cambridge. Mrs. Adams was the widow of Kilburn Adams, a Cambridge photographer who died in 1905. She occupied the house until about 1924. It was then acquired by Otto Swanson who sold it to Marie and Sigurd Trygve Svendsen in 1926 (Book 4938, Page 25). Sigurd Svendsen was a sculptor/modeler in clay for the ornamental industry. He was born in Norway about 1887 and immigrated to this country in 1900. After his death in 1943, Sigurd's widow sold the house to Joseph and Dorothy Burke (Book 6715, Page 200). The Burkes owned the house until 1974. D. Chase Green owned the house from 1974 until 2007. It has had several owners since that time.

Little is known about the builder of the house, Charles F. Willard (1858-1919). Willard advertised himself as a builder/carpenter in Cambridge directories from the 1890s until 1915 when he suddenly changed his listing to "architect". The Adams house was featured in an advertisement for "Beaver Board" appearing in the *The American Architect* publication in 1914 (see continuation sheet).

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Cini, Marcia M. Inventory form for 72 Cushing Avenue (BLM.17), 1982

Massachusetts Historical Commission. MACRIS database.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, MA

Robbins, Samuel Dowse, ed. *Who's Who in Belmont*. Belmont: Belmont Historical Society, 1972.

Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1915, 1922, 1931, 1949.

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U.S. Census, various years.

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BEAVER BOARD

Walls & Ceilings



Attractive home of Mrs. C. A. Adams, Belmont, Mass.
BEAVER BOARD is used throughout.

American Architect, 1914

Continuation sheet 2

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Current view of south façade and east elevation.