

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

P-06-3

Boston
North

Town/City: Medford

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Hillside

Photograph



Address: 30 Dearborn Street

Historic Name: Schumb House

Uses: Present: single-family residential

Original: single-family residential

Date of Construction: 1922-1924

Source: deeds, maps

Style/Form: Craftsman/ bungalow

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: rusticated cinderblock (?)

Wall/Trim: vinyl/ vinyl

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: none

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Siding, sash and door replacement with vinyl, recent decades.

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.1 acre

Setting: Dense mix of late-19th through early 20th century residential and commercial uses.

Locus Map (*north is up*)



Recorded by: John D. Clemson

Organization: Medford Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2021

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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:

The Schumb House, built between 1922 and 1924, is a character-defining example of the bungalow type. The origins of the bungalow are not clear but are thought to have emerged from the colonial experiences of northern Europeans during the 19th century, when native dwellings were adopted by colonizers in Southeast Asia and brought back to the homeland.¹ The type became popular in America nationwide at the turn of the 20th century and is generally associated with the Craftsman style movement, as is the case here. The subject house is a large example of the type with a second story under high side gables generously lit by pairs of windows on the side and a large, paired-light gabled dormer centered on the front roof slope. Like many bungalows built in New England, which may be a regional variant, the generous upper story is masked by a low eave line in the front, which gives the house the characteristic horizontal, ground-hugging massing of the bungalow type. The rear roof slope, with a slightly higher eave, is lit by a gabled dormer in line with that of the front. Another character-defining feature here is an engaged, integrated full-width front porch sheltered by an extension of the main roof slope, enclosed during recent decades but likely originally open. The dimensions of this example are a nearly square 32 feet wide and 30 feet deep, suggesting a foursquare plan. This plan type is defined by four equally sized rooms filling the main level, hence the name. Typically the main entrance opens to one side into a dedicated hall filling a quarter of the front pile or directly into a large, full-width living room filling the front of the building. The main-entrance location here is obscured by the porch enclosure.

Although this example lacks the articulation characteristic of the Craftsman style, including, most commonly, angled brackets, battered porch posts and exposed rafter and purlin tails, evidence of these details may survive beneath later vinyl covering. Currently vinyl sash and door with panned casings fill the openings. Despite alterations the house remains characteristic of single-family development interspersed with two-families on surrounding blocks within a planned residential subdivision of the early 20th century.

The house is sited at a slightly deeper setback than its somewhat earlier neighbors, which are mostly larger two-family buildings, on a narrow, deep, minimal suburban lot. The front garden is elaborately planted with a parterre of border hedges and foundation plantings enclosing open lawn and is retained by a concrete quarter-round curb. The left (east) side yard is filled with a narrow asphalt drive, and the rear garden is shaded by a mature tree.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Schumb House was built near the end of the development of the surrounding blocks, which were part of a planned residential subdivision recorded by Leavitt, Woodworth and Sweatt in 1892. Part of the plan is reproduced below. A directory listing dating to 1890 demonstrates that the partnership began as an agricultural nursery located at 78 Winthrop Street, which served as Woodworth's residence; the firm maintained offices at 14 State Street, Boston.² The nursery presumably operated on the land depicted on the 1896 subdivision plan, which was adjacent to Woodworth's residence. It is therefore fairly clear that, presented with both development pressures and opportunities, the partners converted their nursery operations from farming to real estate. Lorenzo S. Leavitt (1837 – 1907) was a native of Turner, Maine. He resided at 1291 Commonwealth Avenue in Boston and maintained offices with his partner at 30 Court Street, room 47, c. 1900; little else could be determined from available records. Elijah Burghardt (also known by the middle name "Burget") Woodworth (born Aug. 1853) is also not well documented in available records.³ A native of Centre Lisle, New York, he resided in Medford at 78 Winthrop Street as early as 1890. By 1900 he had moved to 261 Beacon Street, Boston, as a lodger. In 1910 he resided at 1647 Massachusetts Avenue in Cambridge and in 1920 at 10 Chauncy Street in Cambridge.⁴

¹ Clay Lancaster, *The American Bungalow, 1880-1930* (Dover, 1985) ch. 1.

² 78 Winthrop Street was later converted to a duplex currently identified as 76-78 Winthrop Street; this building was not selected for survey in this project.

³ Elijah Burghardt Woodworth, *Descendants of Walter Woodworth of Scituate, Mass* (E.B. Woodworth, 1901) pp. 21-22, 70.

⁴ See Clemson, "A History of Land Use Development, Medford Hillside," completed as part of the Hillside phase of Medford survey completed in August 2014.

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The 1910 Sanborn map shows that by that time approximately a third of the lots lining Dearborn and Orchard streets had been improved. In 1904 Elijah B. Woodworth sold the subject property, identified as lot 18, to Ella R. Gilberth of Somerville. Gilberth, nee Ella Reed Tindley (1848-1927), was the wife of Somerville grocer Charles Augustus Gilberth (1848-1920). The Gilberths resided at 58 Concord Avenue and later 59 Prescott Street in Somerville during their period of ownership between 1904 and 1922, during which there is no evidence of any improvements at the subject property, suggesting they were speculating. Ella Gilberth sold the Dearborn Street lot to Billy Spina of Boston in 1915, taking a mortgage of \$500 from him due in three months at 5%, but repossessed the property in 1917. She sold again to Charles J. Schumb in 1922 for an unspecified sum with no mortgage. By 1924 Shumb resided at the subject property with his wife, Theresa A. (Murphy). The household included four daughters by 1940. Charles Joseph Schumb (1888-1933) was an employee and electrician with New England Telephone and Telegraph Company for 27 years. His heirs retained ownership of the property until 1955. Long-term subsequent owners included Philip J. and Geraldine Gerrior (1958-1977) and two generations of the McAdam family (1977-2018).⁵

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Maps and atlases:

1855 H.F. Walling. "Map of Medford...."
1875 F. W. Beers, *County Atlas of Middlesex, Massachusetts*.
1880 O. H. Bailey [Bird's Eye View of] Medford.
1889 Geo. H. Walker & Co., *Atlas of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*.
1898 Geo. W. Stadly & Co., *Atlas of the City of Medford....*
1900 Geo. W. Stadly & Co., *Atlas of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, Volume 1*.
1892, 1897, 1903, 1910, 1936, 1936-1950 Sanborn Insurance Atlases.

Ancestry.com: see footnotes

Charles Brooks and James M. Usher, *History of the Town of Medford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, From its First Settlement in 1630 to 1855; Revised, Enlarged and Brought Down to 1885* (Rand, Avery & Co., 1886)

Middlesex County South Registry of Deeds, in notes as MCSRD book:page.

⁵ MCSRD 3096:369 (1904); 3975:376 (1915); 4142:59 (1917); 4542:251 (1922); 8608:211-212 (1955); 9197:60 (1958); 13222:247 (1977); 45183:570 (2005); 64097:277 (2018); 71716:201 (2018); 72385:57 (2019); Ancestry.com, Gilberth: vital records, marriage, death; 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920 Federal Census; Schumb: 1920, 1930 Federal Census; WWI U.S. Draft Registration; *Patriot Ledger*, Apr. 3, 1933, p. 2, obituary.

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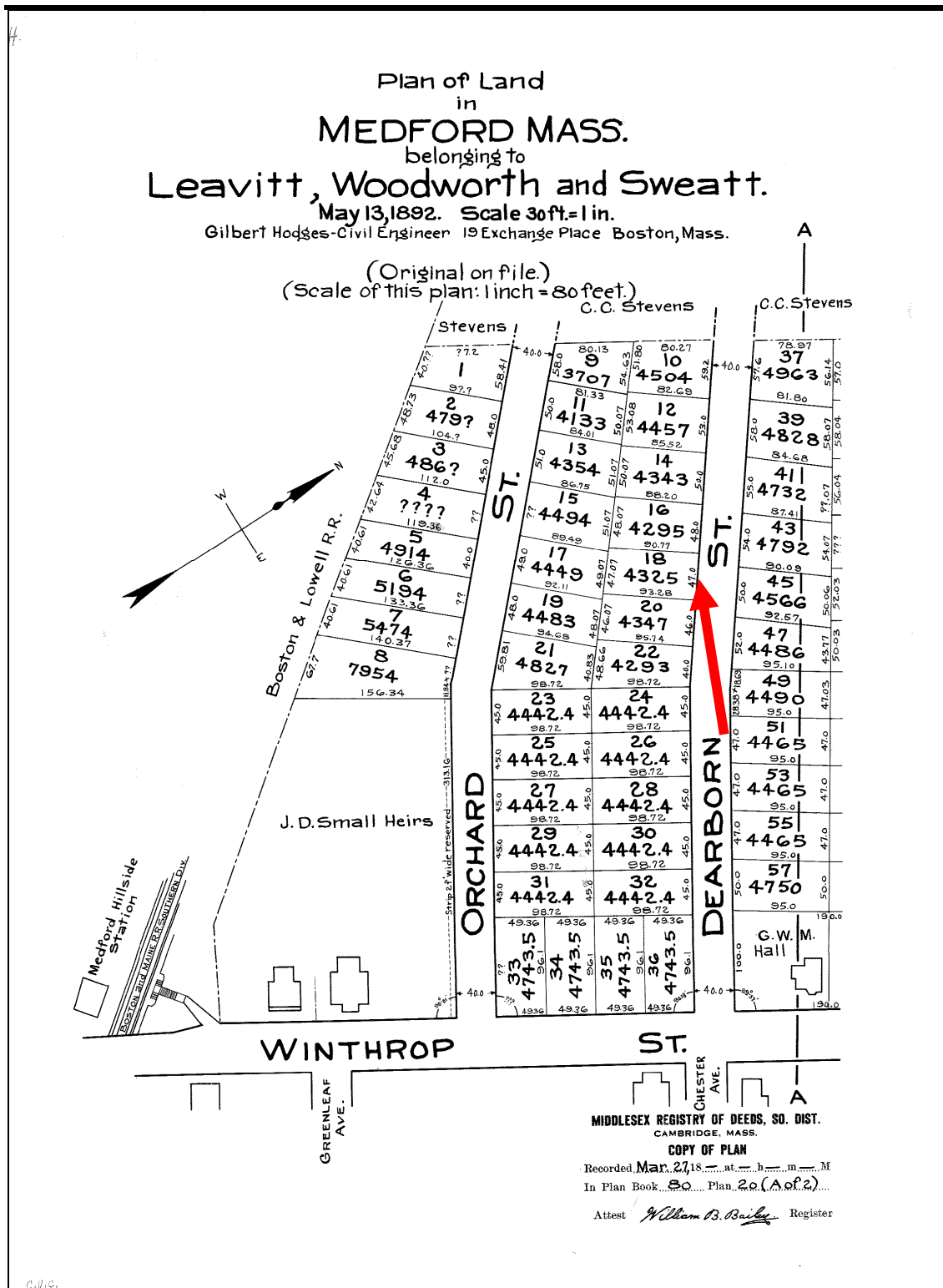
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MCSR Plan 80:20, 1892 showing the initial subdivision of the south half of the Leavitt, Woodworth and Sweatt subdivision and the subject lot, numbered 18 in deed descriptions, indicated by a red arrow. The subdivision developed largely as planned gradually between the early 1890s and late 1920s.

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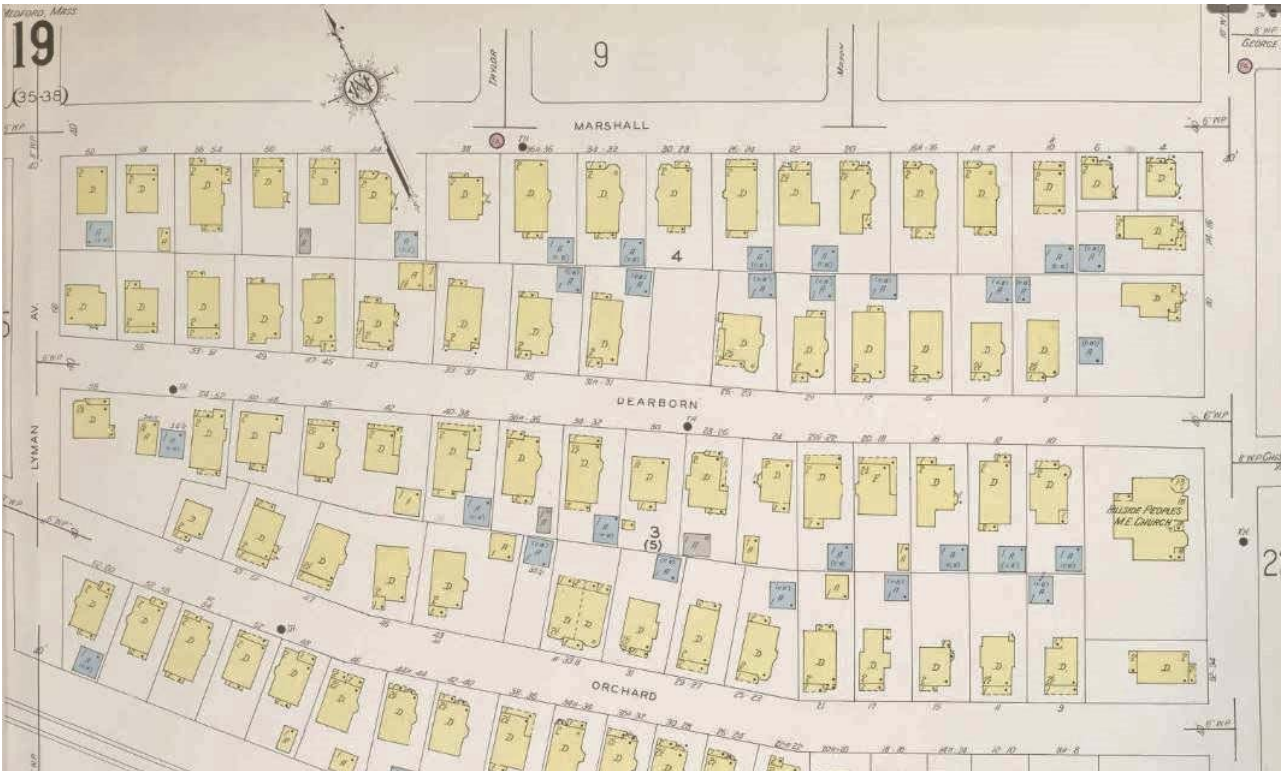
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1910 Sanborn map showing the gradual rate of development on Orchard and Dearborn streets.



1936 Sanborn map showing the nearly full buildout of Orchard and Dearborn streets.

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Aerial screen capture facing E showing the roof and dormer configuration. (Bing, captured 7/1/2021)