

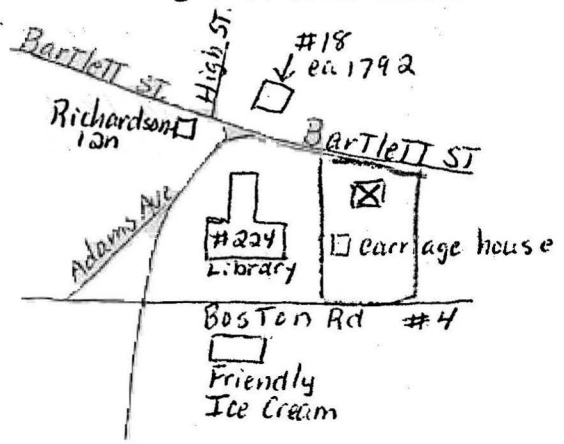
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
	282

2.



4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



1. Town Chelmsford
 Address 2 Adams Ave *
 Name Seabra House
 Present use Children's Library
 Present owner Town of Chelmsford

3. Description:
 Date 1904
 Source Tax/real estate valuation
 Style Georgian Revival

Architect _____
 Exterior wall fabric clapboard shingles
 Outbuildings (describe) carriage house (unattached)
 Other features interior parlor done by Seabra's when house was built

Altered _____ Date _____
 Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size: 23,325 sq. ft.
 One acre or less Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage Adams Ave. ca. 114 ft.
Boston Rd 100.0 ft.
 Approximate distance of building from street ca. 50 ft.

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury
 Organization Chelmsford Historical Commission
 Date August 29, 1983

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
 USGS Quadrant _____
 MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

* street here now (1983) known as Bartlett St. but house address is still known as Adams Ave

7. Original owner (if known) Dr. Arthur G. Scoboria

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates since 1975 children's library - annex to Adams Library

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> | Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Agricultural | <input type="checkbox"/> | Education | <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Architectural | <input type="checkbox"/> | Exploration/
settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science/
invention | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> | Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/
humanitarian | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> | Military | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> | Political | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Community development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | | |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The house and the land were a gift to Mary B. Scoboria and her groom, Dr. Arthur G. Scoboria, by her father. Several members of the Scoboria family were carpenters and helped build the house. Dr. Scoboria had a medical practice for several years in Chelmsford and Lowell.

In 1980 the old carriage house was given a "housewarming" following its remodeling for use as a community meeting place. This was paid for by solicitation of town organizations and individuals. \$3500 was given by the Friends of the Library for chairs, tables, and carpeting.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds, Bk. 372, pg. 507 (1904)
 Chelmsford Directory 1898/99, 1915/16, 1922.

2 Adams Avenue
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

Book 1954, Page 88	1/ 1/1971	Marjorie B. & Phyllis Scoboria to Northeast Masonry Construction Co., Inc. \$69,000 47,292 sq. ft. & buildings thereon 1945 plan, Bk. 71, Plan 46
Book 2155, Page 551	7/ 2/1975	Northeast Masonry Construction Co., Inc. to Inhabitants of Town of Chelmsford \$75,000 47,292 sq. ft. & buildings thereon 1945 plan, Book 71, Plan 46
Book 372, Page 507	12/ 9/1904	J. Adams Bartlett to Mary B. Scoboria Bartlett \$1 23,325 sq. ft. land



Sun Staff Photo by MIKE PIGEON

Adams Library director David Panciera looks on appreciatively as Friends of the Library volunteers ready the Scorbia

"Friends" in action
House for this Saturday's Bookworm's Ball. The ball will celebrate the success of last fall's book sale, held on the front lawn of the Scorbia property. If the

schedule is followed, the house will be redubbed "The Adams Library Children's House" by the end of April.

Scorbia House transformed into children's library in Chelmsford

BY TOM BORDEN
Sun Staff

CHELMSFORD — "I chose the bright yellow and orange trim to make this place look warmer and more comfortable. The Navy used yellow in submarines, you know, to make those long trips in confining quarters more bearable."

Martha Hamilton was explaining her choice of interior colors in the remodeling of the Scorbia House, soon to become the Adams Library Children's House.

The Children's House will not look anything like the inside of a submarine after Mrs. Hamilton, the Friends of the Library and the Library Board of Trustees get through with it, however.

The Scorbia House is the huge, ten-room, early 19th century house that sits next to Adams Library, and by the end of this April, approximately 630 feet of shelving will grace

its walls, 7,500 children's books will cover those shelves, and nearly 1400 square feet of carpeting will blanket its floors.

That's assuming the present schedule, as set by Library Director David Panciera and his assistant, Susan Foote, proceeds smoothly.

"THE FIRST impression I had of this house was that it was dark and spooky," said Mrs. Hamilton, "and to a little child, that can discourage his entering the building."

And so the walls will be mainly white, with bright yellow or orange trim around windows and doorways. While the outside of the semi-Victorian structure will retain its dark stain appearance, and gaudy attachments, the inside will become a bright, cheery place encouraging children from preschool ages on up to sixth grade to appreciate the bibliophile's life.

The preschoolers' room on the first floor will feature a subtle learning device: running along the wall-to-ceiling edge will be an orange-stencilled alphabet. At first glance,

otherwise have to cast aside."

For the Friends of the Library, the project is a chance to provide better services to Chelmsford's youth. For Panciera, it's the chance to expand the present facilities and possibly forestall the need for a new library or addition for at least 10 years.

For Chelmsford, it's all of the above.

orange-stencilled alphabet. At first glance, the alphabet provides a decorative function by defining the wall-to-ceiling limit, but the educational aspects of the orange line are quickly recognized.

The audio-visual section will be in the oak-paneled dining room; left in its former state because its dark panels lend themselves readily to the reduced-light atmosphere conducive to viewing.

Mrs. Hamilton hopes that small, four-foot closets can be made into little study cubicles. The doors to the closets would be removed and a light installed, providing children "a chance to be by themselves."

THE UPSTAIRS would be used for various library-related offices, particularly that of the library director. Audio visual, which currently has stacks of boxes cramped into its small quarters, would also move the production end of things into the Children's House.

To get ready for the proposed April 27-28 opening, professional painters, plumbers and electricians have applied their talents to the 70-year old dwelling, but someone has had to clean up after the professionals.

That "someone" are Friends of the Library volunteers. On Tuesday eight volunteers showed up to ready the building for the Bookworm's Ball, a Friends post-book sale celebration.

A couple of the eight volunteers showed up with their own vacuum cleaners, according to the president of the Friends for the past two years, Janice Murphy.

"**WE'VE BEEN** cleaning up the dust and the rubble left by the workers," she said, "but eventually we hope to get more involved by providing services the library wouldn't otherwise take on."

One service the library might, but will not necessarily provide will be a sort of arts and crafts facility in one of the house's rear rooms. Linoleum will be placed on the room's floor, and eventually, it's hoped that children can make puppets and pictures there.

The effects of the new space on the older Adams Library will be great. Adams Library, which currently subscribes to 500 subscriptions ("an area high," according to Panciera) will expand its periodicals section by relocating to the present mysteries section.

Betty McCarthy, the chairman of the library board of trustees, claims that the building "opens up a great opportunity for the library to try out many programs it might

Library Director Leaving For R. I.

CMFD-Chelmsford's Library Director David J. Panciera has tendered his resignation and has accepted a similar position in Westerly, Rhode Island. He will be leaving Chelmsford about October 1.

The Westerly Library is a private institution also serving the

neighboring community of Pawcatuck, Conn. It is supported about equally by private endowment income and by public funds; its collection of books is somewhat larger than Chelmsford's.

Mr. Panciera was appointed Library Director and assumed his duties here in July, 1972, following the resignation of Mrs. Edith M. Pickles, and became the first professional person to hold this post. He had previously been assistant librarian at St. Michael's College in Toronto, where he was in charge of circulation and technical services and the hiring and supervision of personnel. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toronto with honors in 1967 and a Master of Library Science degree (1969) from New York State University at Albany. A native of Mystic, Conn., the new position at Westerly makes it possible for him to return to his old home town area, a prospect that pleases him very much after being away from it for so long.

Any review of the accomplishments of the past six years in the Chelmsford libraries must be viewed, Mr. Panciera emphasizes, in the light of "being at the right place at the right time" rather than as any unique contribution of his as an individual. He paid high tribute to the trustees and to the staff of the libraries as participants in whatever changes and progress have occurred during the last six years.

Acquisition of the so-called Scoboria property, now known as the Children's House on land adjacent to the Adams Library is

Library Director

Continued From Page 1

called by him as "certainly the most visible" step forward taken during his stay here. But again, he said, "the pieces fell into place" and the purchase was made possible by the efforts of many, not of one man. (It will be recalled that a Special Town Meeting in 1974 appropriated \$98,000 for an addition to the Adams Library, but union opposition to certain arrangements for its construction resulted in its abandonment. The Scoboria property happened to be on the market at this time and quick action by the parties involved made possible its purchase and renovation for library use within the \$98,000 appropriation. The house now contains some 11,000 books, records and toys for pre-school through Grade 6 youngsters, staff offices on the second floor, with additional parking. The former garage, renamed the Carriage House, will be remodelled as soon as funds permit, into a small meeting-place with a stage and other facilities. Funds for this project will not come from town appropriation but from the proceeds of fund-raising events like the annual Book Sale of the Friends of the Library held each Fall, and contributions from the public and the trustees.)

Statistics show a growth in circulation for the two libraries as well as in their budgets for the last six years. A 1960 circulation of 64,169, for example, has grown to 231,639 (1970) and to 261,992 last year. The 1960 appropriation for libraries was \$16,260; for 1970, \$109,910; and for 1977, \$212,835. The per capita circulation, Mr. Panciera said, is over 8 per person annually, a figure which was considerably lower even when the town's population was much smaller. Chelmsford's circulation cost of 90¢ per book, he added, is "way under any library of our size", the cost typically being \$1.50-\$2 per book for communities with Chelmsford's population. Although the libraries "do a lot more than circulate books", Mr. Panciera cited these figures to prove his contention that the town is "getting a lot for its money" in the library field.

Some of the other activities of the libraries during the 1972-78 years include story and activity hours for pre-schoolers, weekly visits to nursing homes and shut-ins, talks and library tours for youngsters to acquaint them with the use of the library facilities, the "Thursday Thing" programs, chess classes, expansion of the Arts and Music

department, creation of a new Business and Legal Reference section, a Center for Travel, and expansion of the Magazine and Newspaper area as well as book review mornings, summer reading programs and publication of several editions of the Handbook of Chelmsford Organizations which contains information about the membership and activities of most of the local organizations. The MacKay Library has completed a 2-year improvement project, and the Adams Library grounds have been made colorful throughout the summer by the donors of plants and the dedicated efforts of the library employee who tends them. The libraries were founding members in 1974 of the Lowell Area Council on Interlibrary Networks, sharing with other members a federal grant for operation of Radio Station WLTI (University of Lowell); grants for various purposes like the purchase of video equipment and the introduction of other services have come from the Mass. Council for the Arts and Humanities and other sources.

As to the future of the free public library in general, Mr. Panciera said that although Proposition 13 and the push toward cutting taxes in other ways do pose a potential threat to the tax-supported library whose facilities are free to all comers, he is very sure that for a free society to work as it was intended to do, there must be unhindered access for all to whatever society makes available for the use of any. There can be no discrimination, he said, between those who can and those who cannot afford to use these facilities. If such discrimination exists, it enables the better-informed who are able to pay for their knowledge to have an advantage over those who cannot pay. A recent newspaper commentary has referred to the public library as "a people's university" and declares that "Public ownership and open access to these resources has been vital to social development." Mr. Panciera would agree with this and so, we believe, would the literally thousands of local residents who have made use of the libraries' facilities in recent years, -- facilities which have immeasurably increased their enjoyment and widened their outlook through Mr. Panciera's leadership even though, he modestly disclaims any great credit and prefers to describe himself as "having been here when all this was happening."

E.P.

Chelmsford Newsweekly
August 24, 1978



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

24 October 1996

Mary E. Mahoney
Library Director
Chelmsford Public Library
25 Boston Road
Chelmsford, MA 01824-3088

RE: Expansion and rehabilitation of the Chelmsford Public Library (aka the Adams Library), Chelmsford, MA
MHC# 2333

Dear Ms. Mahoney:

Thank you for supplying the Massachusetts Historical Commission with additional information about the proposed project referenced above for which you have recently been awarded funding from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. The Adams Library and the Scoboria House, currently used as the "Children's House", are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

MHC staff understand that the proposed project would involve the demolition of the 1922 George Memorial Hall rear addition of the library, the relocation or demolition of the 1904 Scoboria House, the construction of an approximately 20,000sq.ft. addition to the Adams Library, and the rehabilitation of the historic library building. It is also the understanding of the MHC that the Scoboria House will be marketed by the library for relocation.

MHC staff further understand that the current library addition proposal is more sensitively designed to the scale of the existing library and more appropriately sited for the Boston Road/Adams Avenue corner location than the larger 1995 library expansion proposal. MHC appreciates the ongoing communication during the evolution of this design proposal and the willingness of the project proponents to consult with the MHC and incorporate recommendations by MHC staff to reduce impacts to historic resources.

MHC further recommends that the George Memorial Hall and the Scoboria House be documented photographically prior to any demolition, relocation or rehabilitation. This documentation should include archival quality, large-format photographs of the existing conditions, showing exterior elevations, interior spaces, and significant features (both typical and unique), including windows, door, entrances, fireplaces, moldings, etc. This documentation could be deposited with the library, the Chelmsford Historical Commission, or via the MHC, with the Massachusetts Archives.

Although no further review of this project is required under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 9, Sec. 26-27c, as amended by Chapter 254 of the Acts of 1988 (950 CMR 71.00), MHC staff is pleased to offer continued technical assistance. Enclosed is an example of a marketing proposal you may find helpful for advertising the Scoboria House for relocation. If you have any additional questions, please contact Karen Parker of this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen F. Johnson".

Allen F. Johnson
Director of Architectural Review
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Chelmsford Historical Commission
Patience Jackson, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

Children's House going up the road to High St.

By SHARON F. WEITZ
Sun Staff *Nov. 18, 1997*

CHELMSFORD — The Children's House last night was officially sold to a Chelmsford couple for \$1 and will likely be moved to High Street next month.

Douglass Marlow and Linda DeYoung, of 71 High St., said they will have workers at the 93-year-old building Monday to begin reinforcing the structure for its journey.

"We're very pleased that we reached an agreement with the town and hope to have the house moved before the end of the year," DeYoung said last night. "We're a little concerned about the weather."

The town promised to clear the land and level around the house and leading to the street, knock down parts of stairways and walls next to the foundation, pay up to \$2,500 for required police and fire detail officers and immediately make the building available for work.

"It's going to take a couple of weeks to reinforce the house and another couple of weeks to rig it up for the move," Marlow said. "It has to be cut in half and then driven up the street to its new location."

The 3,768-square-foot house is being moved to the corner of High Street and Ann's Way, a road recently built for a three-lot development.

Ann McGuigan, owner and developer of the Ann's Way project, said she's thrilled that the Children's House will be near her own home.

"It's a perfect house to keep near the center of town," McGuigan said. "It's in keeping with the neighborhood and will look beautiful once it's restored."

The Children's House must be moved from its current site next to the Adams Library on Bartlett Street to make room for the upcoming \$4.8 million expansion of the library. Construction of the library project has gone out to bid, with responses due next month and work expected to begin in February.

Adams Library closed yesterday. Workers and volunteers are now preparing for the library's move to its temporary quarters in the Town Offices gymnasium on Billerica Road.

Volunteers are desperately needed for the mornings of Nov. 22 and 23 to help pack books, magazines and videos, lug boxes and unpack materials. Residents or groups interested in helping should call the library at 256-5521 for more information.

The library will reopen Dec. 8 at the Town Offices gym, where it will remain for about two years, when construction on the new library should be completed.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town
CHELMSFORD

Property Address
2 ADAMS AVENUE

Area(s) Form No.

	282
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The Dr. Arthur G. Scoboria House was moved by Admiral Building Movers from 2 Adams Avenue to Ann's Way, off High St., on the morning of March 5, 1998 after several years of controversy. The actual move was delayed by a month, due to major ice storms which had plagued northern New England. Telephone and electric company workers were dispatched up north to repair lines damaged in the storms, forcing the owners, Douglass Marlow and Linda DeYoung, to reschedule the move. Inclement weather caused 3 more delays after that!

It was taken in two sections across Boston Road, over a traffic median strip, up Bartlett St. and Acton Rd. to High St. to its final destination on Ann's Way. Many photographs taken throughout the years were used to recreate the house's original look. The side porch was removed. The first floor of front portico was extended two feet; the second floor was not rebuilt in order to conform to the original plan. The original columns, railings, and slate from the roof were reattached. Slate from the roof was saved and reattached following the move. The house was placed on its new foundation about 3 weeks later.

In 1975 the Town purchased the Scoboria House and in 1993 the Dutton House next door in anticipated expansion of the Adams Library. The library is located on the other side of the Scoboria House. In 1995 a plan was put forward to raze both houses and the carriage house to make room for the library addition and additional parking. However, that plan was eventually voted down in favor of a somewhat smaller library addition, which would not require demolishing the Dutton House. In 1997 the Town admitted that the Scoboria House was worth saving and put it up for auction. There were no bidders in July, but the Marlows indicated a desire to own it at a second auction in September. In November they purchased the house and carriage house from the Town for \$1, saving the house from demolition. However, the carriage house was eventually razed.

Sources:

Lowell Sun: May 30, 1993; Tuesday, February 17, 1998, pg. 4; Friday, March 6, 1998, pg. 11, 12; June 17, 1997, pg. 1,4; Aug. 26, 1997, pg. 1,24; Sept. 5, 1997, pg. 11, 12

Chelmsford Independent: Aug. 14, 1997; Sept. 24, 1988, pg. 15

North Middlesex District Registry of Deeds: Bk. 2155, pg. 551; Bk. 373, pg. 507

The art of transplant

Moving a house is more than packing up boxes

12/11/97 *Chelmsford Independent*

BY CHRISTINE SEYMOUR
STAFF WRITER

Moving is never easy.

Selecting a moving company, packing all earthly possessions into boxes and making the new place seem like home is a headache.

Now, imagine it's not just a matter of cleaning out one place and filling another. Imagine moving the entire building up one street, turning the corner and planting it in a different neighborhood. The prospect takes all the headaches of an average move to another level.

That is what Douglass Marlow and Linda DeYoung are finding in moving the Children's House from Bartlett Street to its new

home off High Street.

The new owners of the house, built around the turn of the century, have put together a plan that surpasses even the most elaborate of "normal" moves.

The plan calls for cutting the two-story house in half, lifting it onto rollers and having a tractor pull the pieces to the new site. The couple hopes to move by the second week of January, but there is much left to do before then.

Because of the width of roads in town, nothing wider than 26 feet can travel on them, so the 44-foot-wide house must be cut.

Marlow and DeYoung hired a builder, Lou Croft, to do the cutting. Croft has a history with the building DeYoung said: He grew

SEE HOUSE, PAGE 16

12/11/97 Chelsea Independent.

House work means more than just cleaning

HOUSE, FROM PAGE 1

up in the area when his doctor, Arthur Scoboria owned Children's House and the building served as Dr. Scoboria's office.

Croft's task is tough. He must reinforce the structure of the house before actually cutting it. On Tuesday, he was making wood partitions to cover the holes that will be left when the house is cut.

"Those will help prevent it from just caving in on itself," said Croft.

Also at the site was the moving company, Admiral Building Movers of Manchester, N.H. Co-owner Matthew Murphy said his company is experienced in the process of moving buildings such as Children's House.

In fact, such projects are more common than most people think, he said. Admiral has moved or raised 55 houses in 1997 alone. Earlier this year in Andover, the company moved a house built in 1720. The oldest building Admiral has moved was built in the late 1600s.

"[The Children's House] is in good shape," said Murphy. "There is very little rotted sill — only some by the door frames."

Admiral's role in the move includes preparing the structure for the stress. Workers have cut holes in the fieldstone foundation and run steel beams through to help support the house once it is lifted by hydraulic jacks.

Plans call for adding steel cross beams run through the basement windows. The goal: reinforce the load-bearing walls of Children's House. Without the steel reinforcement, the house would collapse, Murphy said.

Pieces that would likely be damaged in the move: slate tiles from the roof, the porch pillars and other fine detail work, have been removed and will be moved separately, Murphy said.

"They've been meticulous," said DeYoung. "They're really saving everything they can,

which we appreciate."

Croft also is working to preserve the finer points of the house. Of particular concern to him are the small moldings at the corners of doorways and top of columns.

"We're trying to protect these as well as we can," said Croft. "But when we went to remove them, we found that some of them were nailed on in pieces, and they just crumbled."

The door frames will remain in place during the move, but doors and windows will be removed. Croft pointed to a delicately framed glass door leading to a second-story enclosed porch.

"That's just so pretty," he said. "It's things like that we want to preserve."

He has been scouring the house for similar details that could be protected. In the process, he has already discovered some interesting items. He found a pair of 3-foot-tall fireplace andirons in the cellar, next to the base of a fireplace. Marlow has the andirons now.

Croft also found several manila envelopes containing newspapers dating back to 1883. He set them down in the living room when he returned, they were gone.

Once the house is reinforced and cut — which should take about three weeks — the halves will be raised by hydraulic jacks and placed on dollies. Admiral workers will roll the house onto the front lawn, closer to Bartlett Street, where it will await the final move.

"We're just amazed at how quickly it is coming together," said DeYoung.

Less certain is how soon preparation of the new site will be complete. DeYoung said they are waiting for an architect's plan for the foundation and for the road to be finished.

"Once the road is done, and there is a path to the site, we can pour the foundation and move the house in," said DeYoung. "We're looking forward to that."

Jan 2, 1998



STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN WALKER

One highlight of the year has been the beginning of work at Adams Library. The Children's House, for years a doctor's home, then the children's library, had to be moved. Just before Christmas, workers, who can be seen at the bottom of the picture wrapping the building in plastic, sawed the house in half to ready it for the move.

Key steps taken by building projects

KEY, FROM PAGE 1

projects costing more than \$30,000 have to appear on that data base before they can be sent out for bids.

"This is a key part of start-up. This is real now," said Robert Cruikshank, business manager for the Chelmsford Public Schools.

Now that the Center School project is on the registry, subcontractor bids can be solicited, Cruikshank said. Once that's done, a walk-through, now slated for Feb. 11, will be held.

Bids for the subcontractors will be opened on Feb. 18. They are the employees who will provide specific tasks such as flooring, roofing, dry wall or electrical work, Cruikshank said.

Bids for a general contractor will be opened March 12.

"Once we do that, we'll make an assessment and choose the lowest responsible bidder," Cruikshank said.

The Center School renovation has to be in full swing by June 14. If the department should happen to miss that date, state funding is jeopardized. Right now, the town will be getting 64 percent of the cost, estimated at somewhere around \$6 million. Those figures will be updated and rjiggered as bids begin to come in, Cruickshank said.

Great care is being taken in preparing for the start of the project, Cruickshank said. The department wants to ensure that, when completed, the project is as up-to-date as possible.

"It's going to be quite a building," Cruikshank said.

Adams Library

Things are swimming along with the expansion of the library, as well.

At press time, Library Director Mary Mahoney expected the contract would be signed by the end of the week. The company selected, Mello Construction, based in Taunton, bid about \$3.9 million for the work.

Bids for the project actually came in lower than expected, Mahoney added.

"Once the contract is signed, we'll have a preconstruction meeting and the [ground-breaking] date will be set then," Mahoney said.

The Children's House, now split down the middle and sitting in its own front yard, will be moved from the site shortly.

Coordinating the effort is proving to be a tough task for the new owner. Town and utility officials all have to be on the same page before the house can hit the road.

Owner Doug Marlow is looking at three different dates for the move. Right now, the most likely of those will be on Friday, Jan. 23. The house, and the Carriage House behind it, will be lifted onto a trailer and hauled up the road to a new location on Anne's Way off High Street.

Marlow had hoped to move the house on Wednesday, Jan. 21, but that date is unlikely because the new site isn't ready, yet.

A back-up date of Monday, Jan. 26 has been put in place. Mother Nature may kibosh all moving plans, at least for now.

"I'm waiting for Bell Atlantic to call back. With all the crews up north, all three dates may not happen," he said.

Utility workers of all stripes have been sent to northern New England and Canada to help clean up after the recent ice storms. That could put the move on hold.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN WAL

The Children's House was cut in half and wrapped in plastic recently. The actual move of the building should happen soon.

With the foundation in the foreground, pieces of the houses await transport up Bartlett Road.

House on the move

BY CHRISTINE SEYMOUR
PHOTOS BY ANN RINGWOOD
STAFF WRITER

Early-morning drivers were the first to realize something big was about to take place in the center of town last Thursday.

By 7 a.m., police officers were waving drivers away from Bartlett Road to clear the way for the move of the Children's



Mary and Gregory Dieter follow the action

House and part of the Carriage House (all but the kitchen and bathrooms in the Carriage House were moved — they remain in Town Center and will be razed).

The two historic buildings were about to make a trek of about 3/4 of a mile from Adams Library property to Ann's Way, a new road off of High Street, to make room for expansion of the library.

A Chelmsford couple, Douglass Marlow and Linda DeYoung, bought the buildings for \$1, with the understanding that they would move the buildings off town land.

DeYoung did not want to disclose how much the entire move will cost, but said it was "significant." She added that the town did donate some money to help pay

for police and fire details and the utility crews.

Although the total trip was less than a mile long, it took an entire day to complete. Much of that time was filled with preparing the roads for the passage of three large structures (the Children's House was cut in two because it was too wide to travel down the roads).

After traffic from Routes 4 and 27 was diverted to Boston Road, crews from three utility companies began to work.

Massive trucks lined Bartlett Road as crews from Mass Electric, Bell Atlantic and Media One worked to take down utility lines along the path of the move.

Electricity was turned off and the cables lowered to the ground first, then cable television, fire alarm and phone lines.

According to John Bush, an engineer for Bell Atlantic, the phone service continued in most houses and businesses near the path of the move.

"Our goal is to maintain service for residents during the whole [move]," said Bush Thursday morning. "We are aware of business needs along Route 27, as well. They were really concerned about losing phone service, fax machines and keeping up their high-speed data lines."

Many residents lost electricity for a good part of Thursday and some did not regain it until Friday morning.

As utility crews worked on the lines, workers from Admiral Building Movers of



One of the house pieces is moved into t



SEE HOUSE, PAGE 23

House moved by the numbers

HOUSE, FROM PAGE 13

Manchester, N.H. started working with an independent builder to prepare the Children's House for last week's move.

First, Lou Croft, originally from Chelmsford, reinforced the structure of the house with extra wood beams.

He built special wood partitions to protect the sides of the house that would be open after the building was cut in half. The temporary walls also prevented the house from caving in on itself.

In the meantime, workers from Admiral Building Movers prepared the structure for the stress of being lifted off its fieldstone foundation. They cut holes in the foundation and ran steel beams through to help support the house once it was raised with hydraulic jacks.

They removed pieces of the house that would likely be damaged in the move: slate tiles from the roof, the porch pillars, windows and doors.

The house was cut in half and both buildings were raised and lifted onto dollies. They sat there for nearly two months while other aspects of the move delayed progress.

One of the biggest problems came from scheduling Mass Electric crews, who were helping restore power to parts of Maine after ice storms in January.

Other delays occurred with work done at the site of the buildings' new home. It took longer than expected to close on the land and dig the holes for the foundations.

Once everything was ready, Mother Nature complicated things further. The move was scheduled four different times — once in January, twice last month and last Tuesday. Each time, the weather forecast was wet and the move was postponed because Mass Electric crews cannot work in the rain or snow.

Despite gray skies and an occasional raindrop, the move went forward with few hitches.

Workers from Admiral Building Movers backed construction trucks up to the divided house and

the Carriage House. Mud posed a problem, so they laid metal mats down to give the truck wheels more traction.

One by one, the three structures rolled away from their old address to the top of High Street.

Half the Children's House was pulled up Bartlett Street, while the other half and the Carriage House were pulled over the small traffic island in the middle of Bartlett Street. As the first section brushed against an elm tree on the island, the tree was mangled beyond repair and was removed by the tree surgeon.

Once all three sections were perched at the top of the hill on High Street, utility crews began reconnecting the lines they took down in the morning. Then, they started taking down lines along High Street and Route 27, while workers from Nicol Woodworks Tree Service trimmed trees along the path.

The three sections then crossed Route 27, traveled up High Street and were placed at the lot on the corner of Ann's Way and High Street. Because the ground was so soft, one of the trucks got stuck in the mud. By 9:30 p.m., the last truck was off the property, according to DeYoung.

Marlow said the foundations will be poured later, when the weather clears up.

"We decided that it would be easier to draw the lines for the foundation once the buildings were on site, and the architect said the same thing," he said.

Until then, the buildings will be supported about 4 feet over the holes for the foundations by wooden staging. DeYoung said the moving crew will probably come back to move the structures in place Monday.

Marlow said people are welcome to view the buildings, but he does not want people to drive their cars onto the site.

"We would love for people to watch the progress as we renovate the house," he said. "It's been a part of history for so long that we think people will find it really interesting."

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FINALLY, MOVING DAY IN CHELMSFORD

Former children's library finds home at new site

By JENNIFER REED
Sun Staff

3/6/98

CHELMSFORD — Linda DeYoung had a good feeling when she awoke yesterday. It was moving day, and the move went off without many hitches.

But, packing boxes and replacing furniture was hardly on the itinerary.

After four unsuccessful attempts, DeYoung and her husband Doug Marlow were finally able to watch the Children's House move from its former home on Bartlett Street to a new lot at High Street and Ann's Way, less than one mile away.

"We were so excited to see all the trucks when we got here this morning," said DeYoung. "It has taken us a long time to get to this point. I can't believe this day is finally here."

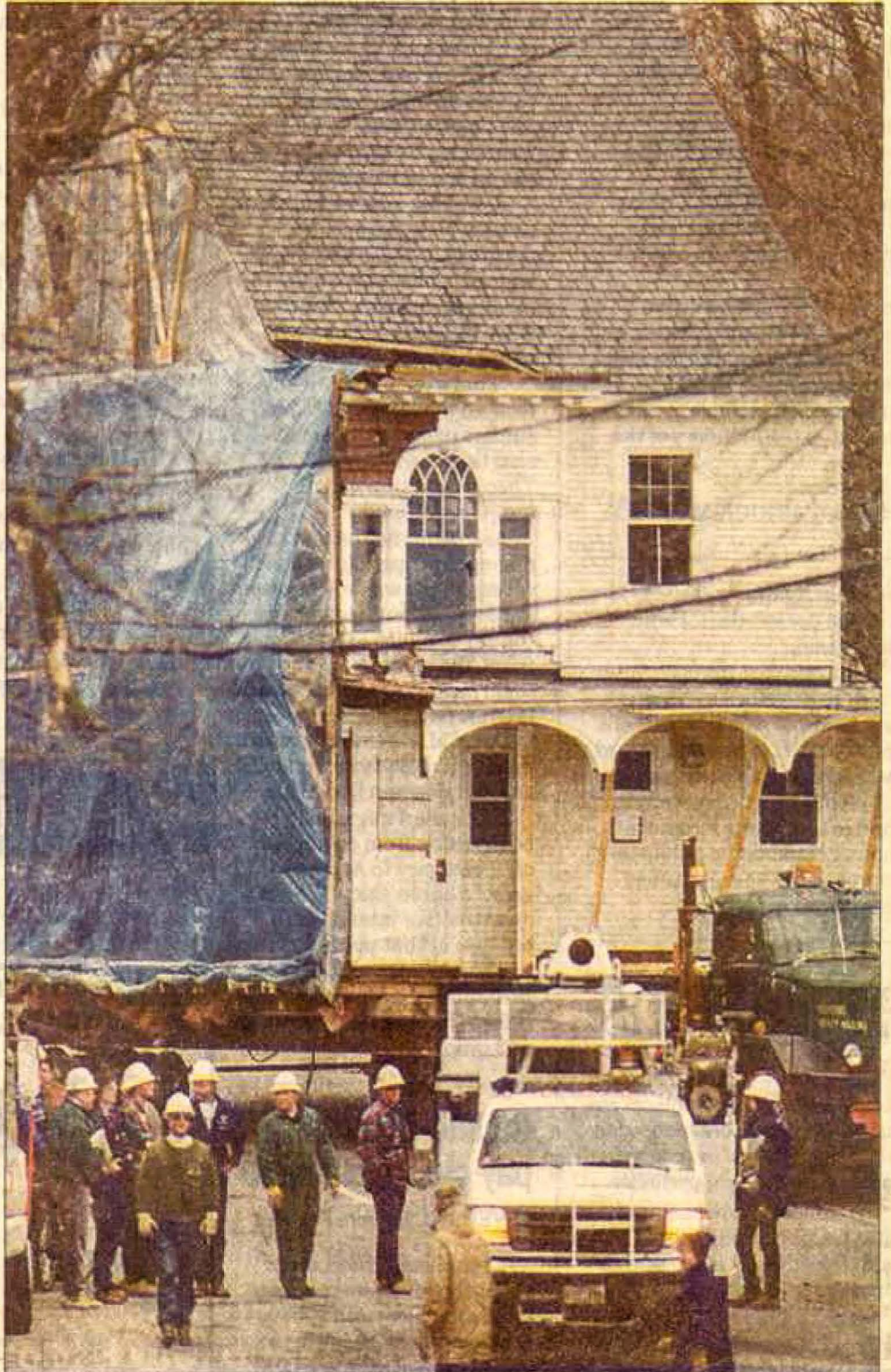
The process began at 7 a.m. when traffic from Routes 4 and 27 was redirected from the work site. Boston Road, normally a one-way street, was altered to accommodate the north and south flow of traffic.

Utility wires were removed from poles by Bell Atlantic, Massachusetts Electric and local cable television employees. About 40 utility workers helped throughout the day.

And, although residents in the area were without electricity for a good portion of the morning, the inconvenience proved less immediate than the fascination of watching a house move from one lot to another.

"I never had any idea that so much work went into this process," said Marty Oslin who brought her 4-year old son David to watch.

Tom LeBlanc likened the experience to watching a "well-oiled machine do its



Children's House finally moved

MOVING DAY/From Page 11

job," noting how every mover knew what he needed to do to get the 200-year old structure up on its pallet and moved.

Marlow said last night that coordinating the utility work, combined with soft ground conditions, delayed the final placement of the house for several hours. But other than that, nothing went seriously wrong.

The Children's House, formerly home to the Children's Library of the Adams Public Library, was removed to make room for the expansion of the main library. The ground-breaking is slated for Monday at 10 a.m.

DeYoung and Marlow bought the building from the town for \$1 and plan to renovate it.

The base cost to move the house was \$35,000 and DeYoung said she has "no idea" how much the actual restoration will cost.

The couple had attempted to move the building once in January, twice last month and earlier this week. Each

attempt was postponed due to inclement weather.

Because of its size, the house had to be separated into two pieces and moved separately. As the first portion was transported, it brushed against an elm tree, sending a 10-foot portion toppling to the ground.

According to DeYoung, the foundation will now be laid for the house. She said that should take about three weeks to complete. Once the house has been placed upon it, the reassembly and renovation work will begin. She said they will complete the work at their own pace.

The couple said they will restore the Children's House to its original state, having collected an abundance of historic photos which will be used in the process. They will eventually sell the house once the restoration is complete.

"We loved the house, our children grew up going there, that is why we bought it," said DeYoung. "But, it is simply too big for us to live in now that our children are grown."



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