

photo here)

21

FORM B - BUILDING SURVEY

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

1. Is this building historically significant to:
Town Commonwealth Nation

Building has historical connection with the following themes: (see also reverse side)

- Scholar
- Agriculture
- Art/Sculpture
- Education
- Government
- Literature
- Music
- Commerce/industry
- Science/invention
- Travel/communication
- Military Affairs
- Religion/philosophy
- Indians
- Other

Development of town/city

Architectural reason for inventorying:

2. Town Chilmark

Street address 110 Billerica Rd.

Name Manning House / Town Farm

Use: original & present Tavern / dwelling

Present owner Arthur Saxsen

Open to public no

Date 1816 Style Georgian

Source of date Waters' History of Chilmark

Architect _____

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material granite blocks

WALL COVER: Wood clapboard-lapped Brick Stone Other _____
rear addition - buttled

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard _____

Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork 1 dormer - rear roof
1 shed dormer - over rear addition

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate

STORIES: 1 2 1/2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 PORTICO _____ Balcony _____

FACADE: Gable end: Front side Ornament _____

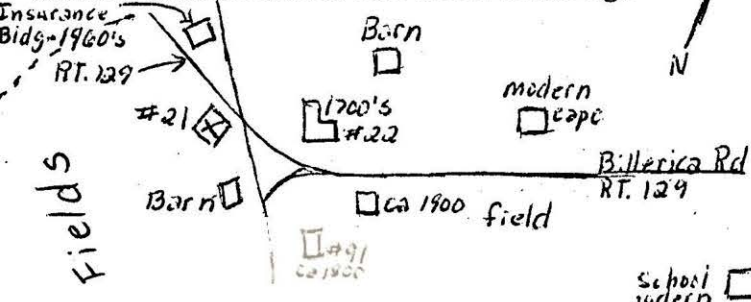
Entrance: Side Front Center Side Details: 5 lights above door, classic entablature see attached sheet

Windows: Spacing: Regular Irregular Identical Varied 5 x 5 Bay, 12 over 12 panes

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings

6. Footage of structure from street _____
Property has 1500 feet frontage on street



Recorder Jane B. Drury

For Chilmark Historical Commission

Photo # 1-13 Date April 8, 1973

SEE REVERSE SIDE

RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

1. Outbuildings 1 large barn with attached carriage shed, 1 small barn, 1 liveryhouse

2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal

Predominant features fields
Landscape architect _____

3. Neighboring Structures

Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.
Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern ca 1800 + ca 1900

Use: Residential Commercial Religious Conditions: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

For several years after being built in 1816 the house was used as a tavern, catering to trade from the Middlesex Turnpike, which ran in front of it and provided a direct route between Boston and New Hampshire. This trade vanished due to the opening of the Boston + Lowell Railroad in 1835, and the Maxxing Tavern closed in 1838.

After 1838 the land was farmed, and in 1872 the house and surrounding 30 acres were bought by the Tour for use as the Tour Farm (some of this acreage now is the Pine Ridge Cemetery). In 1942 the Tour Farm had only 2 inmates, which were sent to Lewkesbury Hospital, and the Tour Farm closed. For several years the property was then used as a turkey farm. It is now simply a residence.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

1831 map

1875 Beers Atlas

Waters: History of Chelmsford (1917)

Mr. + Mrs. Dixie Seward, superintendent of Tour Farm

RESTRICTIONS _____

Original Owner: Jonathan Maxxing

Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____

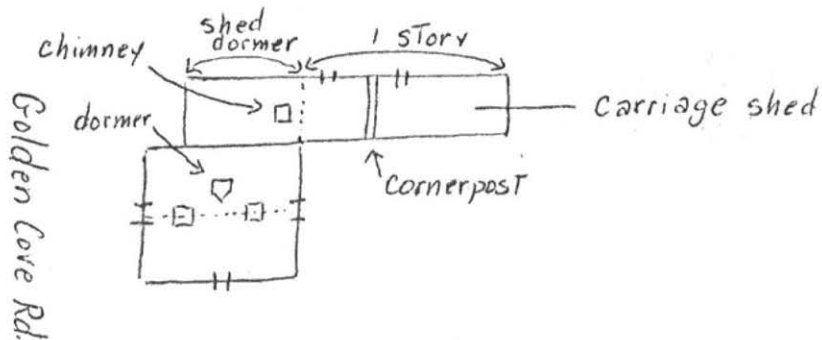
Registry of Deeds

110 Billerica Rd.

Condition

Altered: Kitchen has been modernized with several changes. A milkroom which opened off the kitchen has been torn out since the house was a poor farm.

Added: 1 story addition at the rear and right of the house. A shed dormer over part of the addition increases that part to a second story.



Facade: entrance

Billerica Rd

North (Billerica Rd.) - original main entrance but unused for many years. Classic Georgian entablature: full length pilasters, fairly wide cornice. 5 lights above door. Strap hinges.

East (Golden Cove Rd.) - present main entrance. Classic Georgian entablature: full length pilasters, but cornice and architrave are slightly smaller than North door.

West - fairly plain. 4 lights above door, but no cornice, pilasters, or frieze - only molding around doorway.

Manning Tavern/ Town Farm

110 Billerica Road

Copied by Barbara Morse
November 1973

Northern Middlesex District Registry of Deeds

North: Book 1462, pg. 336	12/ 16/ 1939	Mr. & Mrs Arther Hanson from Mr. & Mrs. Walter Bedell One and 62/100 acres.
North: Book 1105, pg. 170	11/ 26/ 1948	Mr. & Mrs. Walter Bedell from Mr. & Mrs. Roy Clough Twenty and 5/10 acres
North: Book 985, pg. 438	10/ 23/ 1942	Mr. & Mrs Roy Clough from Inhabitants of Chelmsford Twenty-five and 7/10 acres
North: Book 83, pg. 590	12/ 7/ 1871	Inhabitants of Chelmsford from Emeline Rockwood Thirty acres
North: Book 75, pg. 79	4/ 6/ 1865	Emeline Rockwood from Mr. & Mrs. William Preston Thirty acres
North: Book 41, Pg. 523	4/ 6/ 1865	Mr. W. Preston & E. Rockwood from Mr. Weld Spaulding Thirty acres

Manning Tavern/ Town Farm
 110 Billerica Road

North: Book 15, pg. 113	4/13/1858	Weld Spaulding from Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Manning Twenty-six acres
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South:

North: Book 12, pg. 146	9/12/1823	Mr. Joseph Manning from Mr. Jonathan Manning Forty-nine acres
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South

North: Book 6, pg. 504	1/ 25/ 1774	Mr. Jonathan Manning from Mr. William Abbott Thirty acres
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Care of the Poor

Notes compiled by
Jane Drury 2/18/73

Waters, pg. 61:

"But little appears upon the records to show what provision was made for the support of the poor. John Martin at the 'South end' applied to the General Court for assistance, receiving the reply that the 'Court declares yt ye releife of poore persons concerns the tounne to wch they doe belong -----'

They preferred to relieve the wants of the needy by individual contributions rather than levy a tax for the purpose. In 1696-7 'the inhabitanse are not willing to grant mony to releue the por to be raised by way of reat but promis to do it by a Contrybution.'

Later the destitute were cared for in families at the expense of the town, but not until 1820 did the town purchase a farm and house for the support of the poor."

Waters, pg. 599: The Town Farm.

"The care of the poor has received mention on pg. 61. Paupers were formerly put out to the lowest bidder to be cared for.

1796. The Town voted to allow Deacon Aaron Chamberlain the sum of four dollars for his bidding off the widow ----- at the Vendue and his trouble in going after her.

March 6, 1732/3, the Town voted 'to build a dwelling house for the poor,' but, apparently, the project was allowed to drop.

In 1733, Nathaniel Harwood was overseer of the poor, and received \$4 for their support. The Town repeatedly thereafter refused to choose overseers of the poor.

According to Town records, a farm of 120 acres with house and barn was bought of Salathiel Adams in 1823, and constituted as a workhouse, where the poor of the Town should be employed. The price paid was \$2,950. The sum of \$530.72 was required for repairs. The Town, as was common in those days, borrowed of its citizens, \$3,500. The names and amounts were these: Abraham Prescott, \$1,500; Abbott and Fletcher, \$600; John Butterfield, \$426; Henry Adams, \$300; Samuel Davis, \$274; Zebulon Spaulding, \$200; Oliver Parkhurst, \$100; Moses Parker, \$100.

This housez stood on the north side of the Mill road near where the Turnpike crosses it. It was burned in 1871, and for some months the inmates were kept in a house on the opposite side of the road and owned by Benj. F. Hodges (171 Mill Road). In 1872, the present property (110 Billerica Rd.) was bought by the Town, and became known as the Town Farm or Almhouse.

The price paid was \$4,750. The deed, signed by Emiline Rockwood, calls for 30 acres with the house, and 14 acres on the south side of the East Chelmsford road. The latter parcel was used for Pine Ridge cemetery. All originally belonged to the Manning estate.

The house was the Manning tavern mentioned on page 397. The usual number of inmates is from ten to twelve. There are today 21 acres in the present farm. The Town also owns 34 acres of wood land reserved from the old farm. Waldo Hannaford is the Superintendent, 1915."

Waters, pg. 627

"In 1784; the number of male polls in Chelmsford, rateable and not rateable, was 279. Supported by the Town, 2."

Waters, pg. 811:

"In 1720: Saml. Goold and wife, who came from Dunstable to Chelmsford, were the first persons maintained at the public expense. The town gave for their maintenance 8s. per week. A horse was provided for them to ride to meeting."

Waters, pg. 813-14:

"1756. Jean Landrie and a large family, being French from Nova Scotia, were thrown upon the town and maintained at the public expense, until the end of the war in 1763; at an expenditure of £200. which was reimbursed by the province, agreeable to an order of Counsel.

John Parrot died Nov. 20. He was a poor man supported by the Town. The Town paid for 'six pairs of gloves for John Parrot.' This was an old funeral custom The gloves were worn by the bearers or mourners."

Waters, pg. 167-9: List of the Acadians Cared for in Chelmsford

"Chelmsford Oct 24, 1757. In obedience & pursuant to an Order of the Great and General Court of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, made & passed the 21st Day of January A.D. 1757

The following is a true list of the several French Persons names in the Town of Chelmsford, the amount of their age sex & circumstances of their Health & capacity for Labour.

The Number of Frence are seventeen

Vizt. Names	Aged
Jean Landrie a man	62 yrs.
Maudlin his wife	60 weekly & unable to labour & labouring under the misfortune of a broken arm & the charges there of now.
Paul Landrie his son	22 able to Labour
Charles Do Do	20 Sickly & not able to Labour.
Simon	18 able to Labour.
Asam	16 " "
Charles Trawhorn a man	29 Sickly & not able to Labour.
Tithorne his wife	29 able to Labour
Mary their daughter	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Maudlin " "	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Joseph " son	4 sickly
Grigwire " "	3
Margaret" daughter	0:7 months
Joseph Landrie a son of the sd }	26 years Healthy & able to Labour.
Jean Landrie	
Maudlin his wife	26 " " " " "
Jean their son	2 years sickly & weakly.
Murray Maudlin their daughter	5 months.

David Spaulding
 Daniel Proctor
 Henry Spaulding
 Jonas Adams
 Andrew Fletcher

Selectmen
 of
 Chelmsford

December 4, 1758, there were reported two more, Joseph and Paul, grandsons of Jean Landrie, twins, six weeks old, sickly.

The Town Records show amny items of expense for the support of these people, such as rye and Indian meal, shuger, beef, mutton, salt pork, peas, syder, shumb, biscake, fire-wood, and medical attendance. They were well taken care of, but of course suffered much from home-sickness, loss of friends and property, and other things incidental to their sad fate. In one instance one of the French is paid by the town for assistance rendered by him to his less fortunate companions in exile, as appears by the following:- 'Joseph Landrie for time spent in moving Jane Landrie and wife with their goods from David Spaulding's to Ephraim Warrens and for going twice to Dunstable about a nurse for said Jane Landrie and wife when sick, five shillings and four pence,' and David Spaulding is paid for his cart and oxen to move the French from his own house to Ephraim Warren's.'

The Province accounts show items such as the following:

June 14, 1758. Allowed to the selectmen of Chelmsford for supporting French Neutrals, £25.2.5 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Jan. 17, 1759. Allowed to the selectmen of Chelmsford for supporting French Neutrals, £42.2.6 $\frac{1}{2}$.
(Massachusetts Archives, Vol. 136, pg. 517.)

An account was rendered by the Town from time to time to the secretary of the Province of the expense which had been incurred in their support. The following record shows that the Town was wholly, or in part, reimbursed:

'Chelmsford, April 27, 1761.

At a meeting of the Major part of the Selectmen it was agreed upon and ordered that Oliver Fletcher, Esq., pay to Mr. Samuel Perham, Town Treasurer for the Town of Chelmsford for the year A.D. 1761, the Sum of twenty nine Pounds eight shillings and two pence lawful money, which the sd. Oliver received of Harrison Gray, Esq., Province Treasurer, a Grant made to the Town of Chelmsford for their last account exhibited for supporting Jean Landrie and Family in the Town, which grant was made on or about the first of April currant. £29-8-2.'

The fall of Fort William Henry in 1757 occasioned great alarm throughout the colony, and troops were hastily organized in the different towns to repel the threatened invasion. In August the sheriffs were ordered by the Governor 'to keep watch over French, and not allow them too great liberty at this critical juncture, as in consequence of the surrender of Fort William Henry and the attack on Fort Edward, the issue of which is uncertain.'

In 1760 Charles Trawhorn and family were moved from Chelmsford to Concord by order of a committee of the General Court. While in this Town they lived in the house of 'John Blazedel.'

In regard to the treatment of those Acadeans who 'sojourned' in Massachusetts, Gov. Hutchinson wrote that 'many of them went through great hardships, but in general they were treated with humanity.' We cannot but hope that those whose lot was cast among the farmers of Middlesex found some loving hearts to help lift the burdens which man's inhumanity had heaped upon them.

Of their ultimate fate much has been written. Many of those who had been quartered in the Southern States found a permanent home in Louisiana.

Fifty thousands 'Cajans', as they are vulgarly called, constitute

today a separate community along the 'Acadian coast' of the Mississippi in the western part of the State. Papers on file among the Massachusetts archives leave no doubt that those in this state, at least, found homes in Canada.

Soon after the Treaty of Paris, by which Canada was ceded to Great Britain, a correspondence was opened between the Governors of Massachusetts and Quebec in regard to their settlement in Canada. One paper bears the endorsement, 'List of the Acadians ready to go to Canada, amounting to 890.' "

Waters, pg. 826:

"The selectmen or overseers of the poor of the various towns were ordered to bind out to service all children of the Acadians for whom places could be found. Many were taken from their parents to serve under hard task masters. Some of these parents sent to the General Court a petition which is here reproduced (French version is also given in Waters, pg. 826. It is found in the Mass. Archives, Vol. 23, pg. 49).

In English it would read as follows:

'To his Excellency the Governor General of the Province of Massachusetts Bay of New England and to the honorable Gentlemen of the Council.

We have taken the liberty of presenting you this request, as we are in sorrow on account of our children. The loss which we have suffered, of our houses, and brought here and our separations from one another is nothing compared with what we meet with at present, that of taking away our children by force before our eyes. Nature herself cannot endure that. If it were in our power to have our choice we should choose rather the taking away of our bodies and our souls than to be separated from them. Wherefore we pray in pity and to your honors that you would have the goodness to mitigate this cruelty. We have not refused from the first to work for the support of our children, provided it were permitted for our own families. Praying you in mercy to have the goodness to have regard to our Petition, thus doing you will oblige your very humble and very obedient servants.'

Mr. Gridley and Mr. Tyng with others were appointed a committee to consider the petition, and to report. Their report was read and accepted in Council, April 15, 1756. It was ordered that there should be no more binding out, and the Acadians were to be provided with such things as they could work up for necessary clothing, and they were to be treated with kindness and humanity."

The list on page 167 is from the Massachusetts Archives, Vol. 23, pg. 485. A similar list is in the Town records. ~~Some of the statements on the two of~~

Waters, page 425-6:

POVERTY

The scanty crops which kept the first settlers were able to raise on their clearings barely kept them from starving. Wild beasts and savage Indians harassed them, they suffered from the rigors of the climate and from lack of many things which we deem most essential to existence. For many years, corn, and rye formed the chief support of life, and some families had little of these. Many lacked fruit and vegetables. During the long winters not further back than one hundred years ago, some families were obliged to sustain themselves chiefly on turnips, potatoes, and salt. Occasionally, they had fish or game. Yet they were not shiftless, and, when the opportunity came, they improved it. An instance, which, at

one time, might almost be called typical, is that of a family in which there were fourteen children living not far from the centre of the town, about a century ago, all in rags, some of whom, on cold winter nights, slept on straw in the potato bin in the cellar, and who had been constantly assisted by their more favored neighbors, who at last found work in one of the early mills in East Chelmsford. In later years, three of these boys became overseers, and the others did well in mill work. After the application of water power to the weaving of cloth, there were rapid and marvelous changes in the condition of many families."

Report of a Committee on the Subject of the Poor
November 18, 1822

Volume 17, Town Records of
Chelmsford, Massachusetts

"The Maintaining the Poor has become a Subject of great Interest and Importance to many of our Towns and Especially so to this Town within a few years, and has now become so burthinsome as to render it highly necessary to attempt to introduce some less expensive method of supporting them as well as to check the increase of Pauperism. This Town has generally adopted the method first introduced here, which is to put out the Poor annually to the lowest bidder at auction by the week. This custom originated probably when the number of the Poor was fixed and the expenses Small and no doubt was at that time the best method which the town could adopt. But in as much as the number and expenses of our Poor have generally increased and Continue to increase, your committee are of opinion that the time has arrived when the Town ought at least to make an effort to reduce the expenses of their Poor by introducing some new System of supporting them - as their is little prospect of the number of our Poor being less. The Town probably would prefer making some lasting and permanent provision for their Support, Fifty six persons have been either partly or wholly supported by the Town during the present year, and from information received from the selectmen it is Calculated that the expense of our Poor this year will not be less than \$1354 Dollars and may amount to more; of this sum sixty Dollars is paid for House rent the present year.

What new system will best promote the interest of the Town experience must determine but your Committee are opinion that it is expedient for the Town to try some new method of maintaining their Poor, and from the best information which they have obtained on the subject, they are induced to recommend to the town to purchase a farm, with buildings convenient for their accommodation so that the Poor may be employed and supported on said farm, subject to such orders rules and regulations as the town shall see fit to adopt. With this view your Committee have examined several farms in this town offered for sale, and are of opinion that the farm owned by Capt. Salathiel Adams will best accommodate the Town; this farm contains about one hundred and twenty acres is well supplied with wood, is Capable of Great improvement, may be bought for \$2950 Dollars and by your Committee is considered to be well worth that sum. They therefore recommend that the Town purchase the farm owned by Capt. Salathiel Adams for the accommodation of the Poor of this Town and that after the first Tuesday in February next the Poor be supported and employed on said Farm.

All of which is respectfully submitted by

Josiah ~~Fleeth~~ Fletcher
B. Butterfield
John Butterfield
David Perham
Joel Adams

Committee

At a stated monthly meeting of the overseers of the Work house of the town of Chelmsford on the sixth day of march 1823 the following orders and regulations were made & are now presented to the town for their approbation.

Bye Laws
or
Orders & Regulations of Chelmsford
Work House

Sec. 1st the overseers of the poor shall have the inspection & government of the work house with full power to appoint a master & needful assistants & to contract with them for their wages, also remove them from said trust whenever they shall deem it expedient.

Sec. 2^d The said overseers shall meet at the work house on the first Saturday in every month at 3 oclock PM. at their stated monthly meeting to make such orders & regulations relateing to said house as they shall judge necessary. One of the overseers shall visit the work house once in a weak to ascertain if the master thereof conforms to the rules & regulations of the work house.

Sec. 3^d Whenever any person liable to be sent to said work house shall be sent their by an order in writing of one or more of the said overseers or any justice of the peace on complaint, it shall be the duty of said master to recieve such person into said work house & their support & employ such person agreeable to the rules & regulations their of.

Sec. 4th The master of the work house shall keep a Book wheirin shall be entered all orders & regulations made for the government of said house.

Sec. 5th The master of the work house shall have the controwl & government of all persons employed therein & shall manage & employ them from time to time as the overseers shall order & direct, & shall keep a book wherein the names of all persons recieved into said work house & the time when recieved, & dismissed shall be entered, he shall also keep an account of the expenses of siad work house & also an account of the produce of the farm attached to the said work house & also an account of all the artecles of produce or manufactur sold; and exhibit it the same to the overseers of the poor whenever thereunto requested.

Sec. 6th The master of the work house shall keep an inventory of the farming tools household furnature beds & bedding and other property belonging to the town.

Sec. 7th The master of the work house shall have power to reward the faithful & industrious by granting favours & indulgences, but he is at the same time fully impowrd & authorized to punish at his discretion the idle stubern, disorderly & disobedient, by immediate Confinement, without any food other than bread & water.

- Sec. 8th The master of the work house shall cause said house & furniture to be kept clean and in good order & shall cause habits of cleanliness, neatness, & decency, to be strictly observed by all persons received into said work house.
- Sec. 9th The master of the work house shall cause the Lord's day to be strictly observed.
- Sec. 10th Every person who may be received into said work house or be a member thereof must obey the orders regulations thereof & the commands of the master, and will be required by him dilligently to work & labour daily as he shall direct according to age health and capacity.
- Sec. 11th Every person who shall absent himself or herself from the said work house & the appendages thereof and farm thereunto belonging or go without the limits thereof without leave of the master or shall be deemed to be idle stubern & disorderly person and punished accordingly.
- Sec. 12th The use of spiritous liquors is strictly prohibited except when the master, phisician or overseers of the work house shall otherwise order & no person shall be allowed to have or keep in their possession or bring or recieve any spiritous liquors into said work house.
- Sec. 13th The regimen or bill of fare for persons received into the work house shall be as near as possible as follows.
 For breakfasts & Supper
 Hasty pudding & milk, or molasses, bread & milk or milk porridge.
 Tea, milk (?), or domestic coffee. and for Dinner on each day in the week as follows.
 Sunday, Baked meat & beans & indian pudding
 Monday, Boiled salt meat & vegitables.
 Tuesday, soup.
 Wednesday, salt fish and potatoes.
 Thursday, Roast or baked meat & vegitables.
 Friday, stewed Beans or peas with meat.
 Saturday, salt fish and potatoes.
 Provided however that suitable food and necessaries, shall be provided for the sick and infirm according to there age and circumstances.
- Sec. 14th No person received into the work house shall have a right to leave the work house without an order from one or more of the overseers of the work house.

Overseers
 of the
 Poor

"Poor Farm"
110 Billerica Rd.

Mrs. Amasa Brown, 118 Dalton Rd. Tel. conversation with Jane Drury, 3/29/71

- Mrs. Brown is
1. daughter of Mrs. Leroy (Eliza) Hannaford.
 2. granddaughter of Waldo Hannaford (Eliza's father-in-law), superintendent of Poor Farm before Frank Hannaford.
 3. niece of Frank Hannaford (brother of Leroy), superintendent of Poor Farm in late 1920's & early 1930's.

She has a picture of her about 2 years old (1972 List of Men & Women lists her birth as 1916) with parents & grandfather, and hayricks in background. Her grandfather was superintendent then, & her parents were fairly newly married.

The inmates all helped with the work; women inside doing dishes, the washing, etc.; the men outside. Frank's wife died when they were at the Farm, so outside help was also hired to do work inside. Frank's son helped some with the gardens.

Poor Farm - was definitely farmed: cows, pigs, horses, etc. Mrs. Brown remembers riding home on the hay wagon. Hay was grown where the Prudential Building now is. Farm land extended down Golden Cove Rd. to the site of the new housing development. Wood was hauled in wagons from town owned land on Turnpike Rd.

Inmates were of all ages, and many were definitely young enough to help with work (and expected to). Mrs. Brown remembers taking meals up to a semi-invalid woman in her 80's. Her mother (Eliza) had told her that this woman had been there since she was a young girl - had no other place to go to.

House has changed a lot since it was the Poor Farm:

House was divided into 2 sections, with the caretakers in the front part.

The 2 big rooms in the front are about the same as they were then. Kitchen is greatly changed. It used to be a regular old-fashioned kitchen with soapstone sink, wood stove, pump for water, wide floor boards, and (she thinks) a big fireplace.

There was a room off the back of the kitchen where the inmates ate. A milkroom opened off the kitchen also - since torn out.

Annual Report, Town Of Chelmsford
Year Ending Dec. 31, 1942

Selectmen & Board of Welfare - James Grant, Karl Perham, Stewart MacKay

Welfare Investigator - Leonard S. MacElroy

"I do not believe the expenditures of welfare will depreciate to a much lower degree than in the year 1942. At the present time the recipients of this form of aid are unemployable either because of sickness, physical or mental weakness. Due to the increased cost of living expenses and also an increase in hospital rates that went into effect Dec. 1, 1942 any appreciable reduction in the welfare load will be offset by a larger budget required and the step-up in hospital charges.

In addition to the cost of Outside Relief within the Town the Welfare Department has assumed the expense of support of the former inmates of the Chelmsford Town Farm, who are now being boarded at the Westford Infirmary at the present time. At the special Town Meeting held July 23, 1942 it was voted to discontinue our infirmary which necessitated placing the three inmates elsewhere. This change was made Aug. 1, 1942. This additional burden on the Welfare Department is estimated at \$1500.00 per year."

Annual Report, Town of Chelmsford
Year Ending Dec. 31, 1944

"There are two cases being aided in the Westford Infirmary as of Dec. 31, 1944."

Strange things - And it came to pass in those days that when Van Buren was ruler of the land, that many strange things were done in many places, espeilly in the County of Middlesex, in that County there was a town called Chelmsford. Now in that town their was a farm provided for the poor - called the poor farm, where the poor inmates lived. Moreover, it was the law of that town to chose there Overseers yearly, to oversee said farm and the inmates, and to see that they were wel treated, and provided for in sickness and in health. And the Overseers were to hire a respectable man and woman to take the care of the inmates, and to use them well in every respect for their pay was very great indeed. And it came to pass in 1838. There was three Overseers chosen whos hearts were lifted up with pride like unto King Ahab, what had a Jesebel, for a wife and some of the Overseers then came not much short of the same. Moreover the Overseers then advitised abroad for a man and woman, to come and take the care of the inmates. And behold! a wind blew from the wilderness, and blew some of those advitiselements into Sharktown called Lynn. And there was one George Hariman or Whipman, it was ~~an~~ odd name: who had married a widow Bunker, or Funker, it was a home made name - who had a daughter whose name was Amanda, Watchbox. And it came to pass when they had read the advitiselements they were glad at heart, well syas they, we can make more money to go to Chelmsford, & rule the poor than we can here, if you kill hogs, & cocks & hens, for a living, and I to bind shoes by the pair. And so they came to Chelmsford in great style indeed. The Bunker woman called Hariman wife was mounted in a one horse wagon, with her Watchbox, with their furniture and a Lynn driver, to drive them in great style. And the Lynn Shark Hariman rode behind on some kind of an animal, that looked like a horse for a near guard to keep the Devil back for a while. Moreover, after he began to treat the inmates with vigour, for some of them he hauled out of the house & said he would put them in the Lobby, that were over 60 years of age that were a female. And some of the females, he said he would horse whip that were over 70 years of age. Yet they had done nothing to deserve any punishment. Moreover, there was a female over 25 years of age, which he whipt with a stick when she was sick because she did not work. Moreover their was a lad over 20, a Nimwite like who could not count 10, nor scarce dicearne betwixt his right hand, or left. Him, he took & propt open his mouth with a chip for eating a few apples in the winter and he stiped him naked in the field and called the Watchbox to look at him. Moreover, he would knock him down in the barn and whip him, & kick him all to gratify his Sharkish temper. And when the Governor's Thanksgiving came, there was cocks, & hens killed & rosted in abundance, but the inmates had not a bone of them to pick their teeth. And their was pies made in great plenty. But the inmates had only two pies apiece for them. And it was sorrowful to the inmates to see the Lynn Sharks divouring the fowls before their eyes & they not allowed to taste of them at all. The inmates had a plum pudding & baked sparib for their supper, for the Lynn Sharks thought the inmates as dogs that eat the crumbs that fall from their Masters table. And it came to pass after these things were done the Lynn Shark, burnt up bedsteads & chairs, & cheese hoops & axe helves, & yokes, & rakes, & shovels, & good boards, & a good Shoemakers seat, & barrels, & loom, & hogsheads. And he sold a set of drills, and hammer, and an Iron pot, & tea kittle & a pair of hames which was contry to the law of the Town. But the Overseers never said, why do ye so, for they were like Gallio, they cared for none of these things. And Hariman used to pray night & morning, so that the house rang again; and his prayers availed much, for there has not an Owl, been heard to hoot in the woods near the poor farm since a(nd-torn) they did before he came. Moreover he was given to the flesh, to

acost a married Lady indicently - and he had to promise to behave well for the futer. What says the poet to such things that are indecent ----- Belysed is he that hath - a - good wife. And happy is - he - that - hath none; But cused is he that will go - a - whoreing. When he has - a Bunker, for a wife at home. And when those things were heard of in Gath, & published in Ashkelon, The people in Chelmsford, said, they would see to those things, & they found that they were true. For such things never were done before in Isreal, nor in Chelmsford, to have there poor kept on fried pork & potatoes, & salt fish, & gray beans, nor any cider to drink in the winter, when there was cider enough in the cellar, nor any apples to eat but let them rot in the cellar. But the Lynn Sharks, would eat fowls, & fresh pork, & fresh beef, and bacon, & the best of flour cake, & pies, and apples, all these things were done in 1838. - In the Lynn Shark Harimans time. And it came to pass in 1839, That the town chose a new board of Overseers, to take care of the poor farm, men of ability and feelings we hope, that they will see to the inmates wellfare & happinys as their own. And it is expected that they will, for their own credit and the towns, and it is though they have provided good superintenders & this year who are of good characters, and morals and feelings, that will treat the inmates well, and God grant that it may be so. To conclude with - Ancient poet - My groans and tears and former woes. Are turned to joy - and praises now. Ill throw my sackcloth on the ground. And joy and gladness gird me round.

Tune, Lynnshark, L. M.

1839

The photostat of this paper was rescued from destruction at the Chelmsford Town Hall by John Alden in 1971 and placed in the files of the Chelmsford Historical Commission. This copy was made by Jane Drury 3/7/73.



“FOR TIRED NERVES”
CHELMSFORD SANITARIUM, CHELMSFORD, MASS.

TOWN FARM CHELMSFORD MASS
1912.





A HOME FOR THE HOMELESS: "The Tramp House", shown as it was being torn down in the mid-1950's by the private owner of what had been the Town Poor Farm at the corner of Billerica and Golden Cove Roads. This building was home for a night to the many tramps who wandered from place to place. By state law the town furnished supper, breakfast and a bed, but the tramps were required to do whatever work they could in return. The average number of tramps "put up" in the tramp house, in the almshouse, or in private homes in the North, West and South villages from 1875 through 1906, totalled 14,321, or an average of about 450 per year. As economic conditions improved, the number of tramps tended to fall, and with the expansion of public welfare and the coming of Old Age Assistance, tramps were otherwise provided for.



8/8/2004 F. Merriam



9/10/2004 F. Merriam



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