

**FORM B – BUILDING**

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

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

73-329-12	Billerica		294
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Town Chelmsford

Place (neighborhood or village)  
 Chelmsford Center



Address 37 Billerica Rd.  
 Historic Name Elizabeth Parkhurst House  
 Uses: Present residence, 1 family  
 Original residence, 1 family  
 Date of Construction 1889  
 Source Lowell Weekly Journal  
 Style/Form typical Victorian  
 Architect/Builder Samuel Hagerman, builder

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation main house- small fieldstone with concrete  
 attached garage/carriage house – stuccoed; probably like  
 main house  
 center part – hard to see, but probably similar to main  
 house

Wall/Trim aluminum siding

Roof gable; asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures  
 none

Major Alterations (with dates)  
 ca 1955 aluminum siding

Condition good

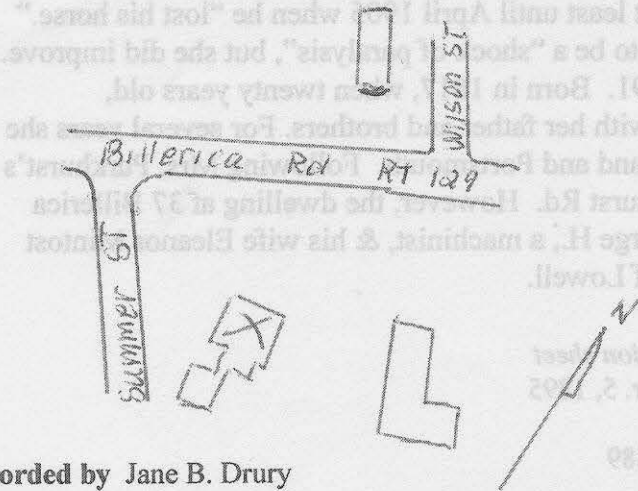
Moved  no  yes Date

Acreeage 15,000 sq. ft.

Setting Above corner overlooking busy Rt. 129 and  
 Grove St. The ground behind slopes steeply down.

**Sketch Map**

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the  
 nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all  
 buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection  
 or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any.  
 Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



Recorded by Jane B. Drury

Organization for Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date (month / year) Sept. 2005

**BUILDING FORM**

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**  see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The architecture of this Victorian house at 37 Billerica Road is unique to others in the town. See attached pictures.



4/7/2005

**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**  see continuation sheet

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local owners/occupants played within the community.

In March 1889 Mrs. Elizabeth R. Parkhurst, the widow of John Parkhurst, sold her old homestead at 16 Parkhurst Rd. and had purchased a building lot on Billerica Rd. where "she will at once build a handsome cottage." Meanwhile she was living on North Road at "the house of Mr. E. F. Parker with Miss Flora Spaulding as housekeeper." By May of that year the new dwelling at 37 Billerica Rd. was "rapidly progressing." In May 1890 Mrs. Parkhurst was taxed for the dwelling and the barn. The barn is attached at the right rear of the house.

One of Mrs. Parkhurst's sons, J. Roland, moved into the house with her, as did William Griffith. Roland and William continued to work as florists in Roland's greenhouses, which were located across Parkhurst Rd. from the old house. Apparently he didn't have to walk across the town to his business, at least until April 1905 when he "lost his horse." In the fall of 1900 Mrs. Parkhurst suffered what was at first thought to be a "shock of paralysis", but she did improve. She died at her home on Billerica Rd. on December 16, 1908, aged 91. Born in 1817, when twenty years old, Elizabeth Johnson, as she was then named, went to Cleveland, OH with her father and brothers. For several years she assisted them in their work on the Ohio Canal boats between Cleveland and Portsmouth. Following Mrs. Parkhurst's death, Roland and William continued their work as florists on Parkhurst Rd. However, the dwelling at 37 Billerica Rd. was sold and apparently rented out for a few years. Owners George H., a machinist, & his wife Eleanor Mintost were residing there in 1917, when they sold it to Edward Freeman of Lowell.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**  see continuation sheet

- Lowell Weekly Journal: Mar. 22, 1889; Apr. 12, 1889; May 31, 1889, Apr. 5, 1895
- Lowell Daily Courier: Oct. 18, 1900; Oct. 23, 1900; Dec. 16, 1908
- Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds, bk. 204, pg. 523 Mar. 20, 1889
- Assessors' records; Building Inspector's records; Street Directories
- Margaret Mills: Nov. 28, 1978
- Mrs. Beatrice Belkakis: Mar. 29, 2005
- Katherine Macelroy Friday, James Macelroy: August 2005

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

Town **CHELMSFORD** Property Address **37 BILLERICA RD.**

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Area(s) Form No.

**Alterations**

- Dormers: right side of main house, over garage door – probably not original
- Rear left section: 1 story addition between 1915 and 1971 probably by the Freeman family
- 1960s: The arrangement of these rooms were changed by the Belkaksis family. It now consists of 3 small rooms. An exterior door was added to the enclosed porch on the left side. A new window replaced tiny ones on the rear wall.
- Open porch on front left side of main house: closed in
- Aluminum siding: ca 1955
- No cellar except under main house; dug out by hand ca 1955
- Ca 1960-5 the rear right room of the main house was altered. The former enclosed porch with arched window, which matched an arched window in the front right room, was made a part of the interior room.

*Right side April 6, 2005*



## Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

- Bk. 1221, pg. 324      4/22/1952      Edith I. Freeman, widow, Madeline C. Freeman Phelps, Edward W. Freeman to Efsthathios C. & Beatrice Belkakis 15,000 sq. ft. & buildings thereon Subject - taking by Co. Commissioners 1916
- Docket #247163      1942      Estate of Edward W. Freeman to Edith I. Freeman, Madeline C. Freeman Phelps, Edward W. Freeman
- Bk. 572, pg. 109      5/12/1917      George H. Mintoft to Edward W. Freeman, Lowell 15,000 sq. ft. & buildings thereon Subject - taking by Co. Commissioners 1916
- Bk. 522, pg. 305      6/20/1914      Ella M. Melvin to George H. Mintoft, Lowell 15,000 sq. ft. & buildings thereon
- Bk. 454, pg. 301      6/21/1910      Estate of Elizabeth R. Parkhurst to Ella M. Melvin \$2050 15,000 sq. ft. & buildings thereon
- Bk. 204, pg. 523      3/20/1889      Horace Holt to Elizabeth R. Parkhurst \$500 15,000 sq. ft. land
- Bk. 193, pg. 280      11/29/1887      David Perham to Horace Holt 15,000 sq. ft. land

Lowell Weekly Journal:

March 22, 1889 - Mrs. Eizabeth R. Parkhurst has sold her homestead opposite the well known Owl's Nest greenhouses, to the Adams brothers of Nashua, formerly of Lowell, who will take possession April 1. Mrs. Parkhurst has purchased of Mr. Horace Holt a building lot in the Centre village, where she will at once erect a handsome cottage.

April 12, 1889 - In consequence of the sale of the "Owl's Nest" homestead, the proprietors of the greenhouses bearing that title were forced to change their domestic headquarters, and are now comfortably domiciled in the house of Mr. E.F. Parker with Miss Flora Spaulding as housekeeper.

May 31, 1889 - Work upon Mrs. E.R. Parkhurst's new cottage on Billerica street is rapidly progressing. Samuel Hagerman is the builder.

April 5, 1895 - Florist J.R. Parkhurst lost his horse.

Lowell Daily Courier:

Thurs., Oct. 18, 1900 - Mrs. Elizabeth R. Parkhurst, a venerable resident of this village, sustained a shock of paralysis this morning.

Tuesday, Oct. 23, 1900 - Mrs. Elizabeth R. Parkhurst is improving. The report that her illness was a paralytic shock was erroneous.

Dec. 16, 1908 - The death of Mrs. Elizabeth Ryder (Johnson) Parkhurst, one of Chelmsford's oldest residents, occurred suddenly today at her home on Billerica street, at the advanced age of 91 years and four months. She was the widow of the late John Parkhurst, to whom she was married in Chelmsford in 1844. She was born in Lancaster, Mass., in August 1817, and at the age of 20 went to Cleveland, Ohio with her father and brothers. There they engaged in work upon the Ohio canal boats between Cleveland and Portsmouth and she remained for several years assisting them. She is survived by five children, J. Roland Parkhurst and Leroy J. Parkhurst of Chelmsford, Clinton Edgerton Parkhurst of Los Angeles, Cal., Mrs. Kathe Atherton of Holyoke, Mass., and Mrs. Elizabeth L. Shaw of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. A notice of the funeral will be given later.



