

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	260



1. Town Chelmsford
 Address 49 Billerica Road
 Name Jesse H. Parker House
 Present use 2 family dwelling
 Present owner Christopher Sophos

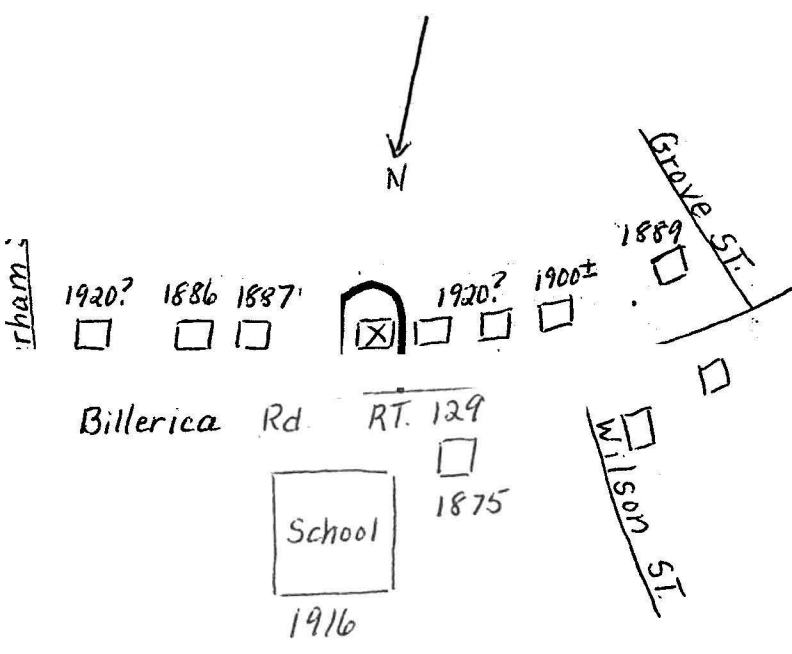
3. Description:
 Date 1875
 Source Lowell Weekly Journal
Real estate/tax lists
 Style _____
 Builder _____
 Architect Almon W. Holt

Exterior wall fabric butted clapboard
right rear of lot
 Outbuildings (describe) unattached garage
 Other features _____
Wide cornerboards with wide
indentations; no brackets
 Altered see attached Date _____
 Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:
37,658 sq. ft.
 One acre or less x Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 100 feet
 Approximate distance of building from street
ca 45 feet

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury
 Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commission
 Date November 18, 1979

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



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

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Almon W. Holt
 Original use residence
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	<u>x</u>	Industry	<u>x</u>	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	<u>x</u>				

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

It was Early in his career as a building contractor when in 1875 Almon W. Holt built this house. Although his mortgage was foreclosed in 1877 and he lost this property, he later became one of Chelmsford's most successful contractors.

Jesse H. Parker purchased it in 1886, and ownership remained in his family until 1946. Jesse was a moulder and a widower with 2 sons in 1880, when he married Philena Moxley. Philena was an embroidery stamper with her own successful shop in Lowell, which she had built at the age of 17 after obtaining a bank mortgage. She gained a wide reputation for her designs, and many of her stamps and patterns are now displayed by the Wenham Historical Association. (Only one of her rug stamps survives; she sacrificed the rest to the furnace during a coal strike).

In 1892 the Parker family moved back to Lowell, and the house and barn were rented. John Byfield lived here in 1894, the year after his machine shop burned down (site of Chelmsford Ginger Ale Co. #209). In 1903 the Parkers returned to 49 Billerica Rd. Following Jesse's death in 1909, Philena took in boarders; in 1936 she sold the house to a daughter and moved to the home of another daughter in Wenham.

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

1875 Beers Atlas; 1889 Atlas; 1915 Plan, Plan Bk. M, Plan 97
 Chelmsford Eagle, Dec. 12, 1877
 Lowell Weekly Journal, Apr. 29, 1892; June 2, 1893; May 4, 1894
 Lowell Courier-Citizen: Oct. 22, 1913; Oct. 21, 1915; Apr. 14, 1910
 Antiques Magazine, Aug. 1972
 Middlesex North Dist. Reg. Deeds, B.106, p.267; B.110, p.479
 Real estate/tax valuation lists; Assessors' records
 Waters, History of Chelmsford

Lowell & Chelmsford Street Directories

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Chelmsford	Form No: 260
Property Name: Jesse Parker House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

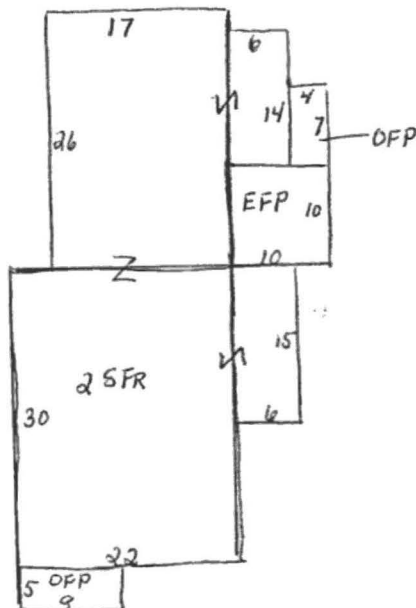
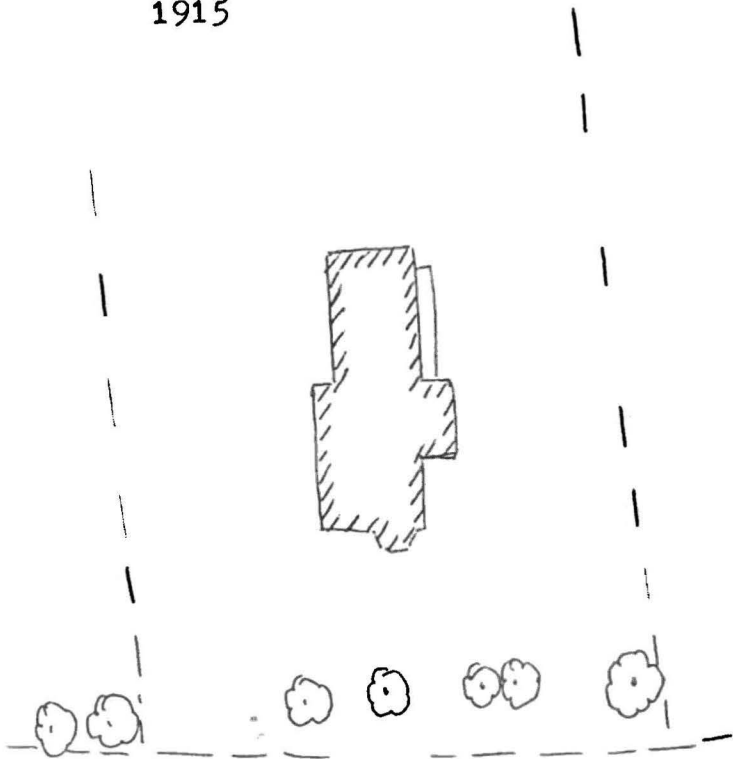
3. Alterations

Lowell Weekly Journal, June 2, 1893:

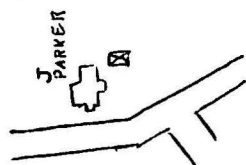
The thunder shower Sat. evening made a forcible demonstration of its power in this village.....Mr. Parker's house was considerably damaged, quite a section of the ridge pole and its surroundings were torn up, a chimney removed, a considerable portion of one side of the house taken out, besides minor damages to the interior of the building.

Plan Book M, Plan 97
1915

Revaluation Card
June 4, 1971



1889 Atlas



Staple to Inventory form at bottom

49 Billerica Road
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

Bk. 1156, pg. 470	11/15/1950	Benjamin & Esther F. Blechman to Christopher E. & Mildred K. Sophos, Lowell 37,658 sq. ft & buildings thereon Lot 4 - 1872 Patch plan
Bk. 1042, pg. 329	4/18/1946	Mabel Dana Young, Swampscott, to Benjamin & Esther F. Blechman, Lowell 37,658 sq. ft. & buildings thereon Lot 4 - 1872 Patch plan
Bk. 882, pg. 66	3/17/1936	Philena C. Parker, widow, Wenham, to Mabel A. Dana, 17 Sagamore St., Lynn 37,658 sq. ft. & buildings thereon Lot 4 - 1872 Patch plan
Bk. 467, pg. 105	6/27/1910	Heirs of Jesse H. Parker to Philena C. Parker, widow 37,658 sq. ft. & buildings thereon Lot 4 - 1872 Patch plan
Bk. 182, pg. 442	6/19/1886	Henry L. Tibbetts, Lowell, to Jesse H. Parker \$2500 land & buildings Lot 4 - 1872 plan
Bk. 144, pg. 564	4/19/1881	Edward W. Dudley, Lowell, to Henry L. Tibbetts, Lowell \$1000 & "the trust herein created" "for benefit of creditors of grantor" 2 lots: 1. Lowell - land & buildings 2. Lot 4, 1872 plan & buildings thereon
Bk. 144, pg. 306	3/28/1881	George W. Cumings, Lowell, to Edward W. Dudley, Lowell \$3000 37,658 sq. ft. & buildings thereon Lot 4 - 1872 plan
Bk. 139, pg. 586	5/ 1/1880	Paul F. Litchfield, Lowell, to George W. Cumings, Westford \$3000 37,658 sq. ft. & buildings thereon
Bk. 138, pg. 156	3/13/1880	Samuel P. Perham to Paul F. Litchfield, Lowell \$2500 37,658 sq. ft. & buildings thereon Lot 4 - 1872 plan
Bk. 126, pg. 273	11/ 2/1877 Foreclosure	Almon W. Holt to Samuel P. Perham

Bk. 110, pg. 479 5/10/1875 Almon W. Holt to Mortgage Samuel P. Perham \$500
37,658 sq. ft. & buildings thereon Lot 4- 1872 plan

Bk. 106, pg. 267 11/6/1874 Ephraim P. Patch, Lowell, to Almon W. Holt \$300
37,658 sq. ft. land -Lot 4, 1872 plan

Compiled by J.B. Drury, October 1978

49 Billerica Road

1875 Beers Atlas: no
1889 Atlas: J. Parker
1915 Plan M, Plan 97: Jesse H. Parker

Chelmsford Eagle, Dec. 12, 1877:

Upon the Billerica road two houses have been built - a two story dwelling by A.W. Holt, and a cottage by Warren Emerson, formerly of Lowell.

Waters, History of Chelmsford:

Chelmsford Veterans Association - deceased comrades:
Jesse H. Parker - Nov. 2, 1909

Notes from Antiques Magazine, Aug. 1972:

1868 - Philena Moxley listed in Lowell as an embroidery stamper

1877 - Philena Moxley opened a second shop in Salem, which was managed by her sister Melona. Melona had an unstable personality, and Philena closed the shop in 1878.

Philena Moxley married Jesse Parker, a widower with two sons, and in 1889 she closed her shop (in Lowell) and moved with her embroidery stamps, husband and stepsons and two small daughters to Chelmsford. Sometime later she sacrificed the large rug stamps to the furnace during a coal strike; consequently, only one of these has survived. When Philena Parker moved late in life to her daughter's in Wenham, the stamps moved with her, for she set great store by them until her death in 1937 at the age of 94.

The Lowell Museum had a picture of Philena Moxley Parker and daughter Minnie Parker (Ashworth)

Lowell Weekly Journal

April 29, 1892 - Mr. Jesse Parker & family remove to Lowell this week, and will let a part or all of their house on Billerica street. This is a fine opportunity to secure a very desirably house, barn and garden but a short walk from the railroad station.

June 2, 1893 - The thunder shower Saturday evening made a forcible demonstration of its power in this village. The house of Timothy Adams, on the north side of Billerica street, and that of J.H. Parker, occupied by F.E. Metcalf, on the opposite side of the street, were struck by the electric bolt. Mr. Parker's house was considerably damaged, quite a section of the ridge pole and its surroundings were torn up, a chimney removed, a considerable portion of one side of the house taken out, besides minor damages to the interior of the building. Two young children received quite a shock, from which they did not recover for over an hour.

May 4, 1894 - John Byfield will soon occupy the house of Jesse Parker on Billerica street.

Lowell Courier-Citizen

October 22, 1913 - Mrs. W.S. Parker and daughter Ethel, have taken rooms for the winter at Mrs. J.H. Parker's in Billerica street. Her son, Leon H. Parker with his family, will occupy the farm on Boston road.

October 21, 1915 - Mrs. W.S. Parker removed this week from the Billerica street, to the recently completed Armstrong cottage on Littleton road.

April 14, 1910 - Mrs. Godfrey and her daughter Eva Godfrey, who have been living at the home of Mrs. J.H. Parker in Billerica street, have taken rooms in the Aiken house on Westford street.

Moxley Exhibit Loaned To Adams Library

CMFD-Philena Moxley is the subject of the new exhibit at the Adams Library. The Lowell Museum, in celebration of Philena and National Needlework Week, has created an exhibit of Philena's dry goods and embroidery shop. The Museum has loaned us a portion of the display for our patrons. Philena was a very unusual lady. She went to work at sixteen and became an "embroidery stamper". At seventeen, she obtained a bank mortgage and built herself a house and shop on the corner of Gorham and Central Streets in Lowell. She gained a wide reputation for her designs and her work. In 1880, she married Jesse Parker of Chelmsford and continued to run the business as the "Misses Moxley" until 1888. After her husband died, she moved to Wenham to live with her daughter and died there at the age of 94. Her stamps, pricked patterns and such, were left to the Wenham Historical Association, which has generously loaned these items to the Lowell Museum for this exhibit. The library display is in the Fine Arts & Music Room for the month of October and the Lowell Museum's exhibit is now through December 31st.

Chelmsford Newsweekly
Thursday, October 19, 1978

Note by J.B.Drury:
Following the death of her husband in 1909, she lived at 49 Billerica Rd. until about 1923, where she took in boarders.



7/25/2004 F. Merriam