

FORM B - BUILDING

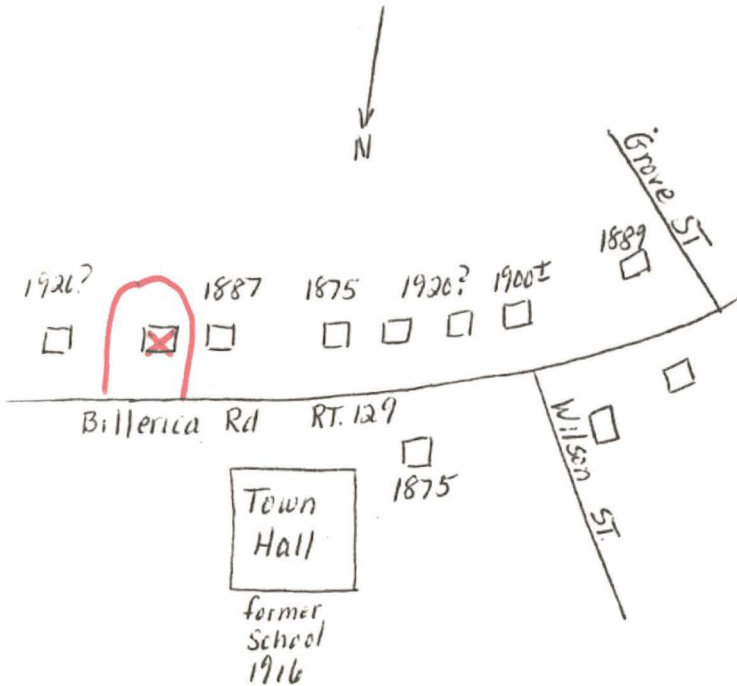
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
	262



Town Chelmsford
Address 59 Billerica Road
Name Horace Knowlton House
Present use residence
Present owner Gertrude M. Lyons
Description
Date 1886
Source tax records; Lowell Weekly Journal
Style
Contractor
Architect Adams Marshall

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. _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboard
Outbuildings (describe) garage at rear
Other features fancy shingles: upper part of rt. side & under front gable; plain relatively narrow cornerboards topped with double brackets

Altered see attached Date 1954
Moved no Date _____

5. Lot size:
17,194 sq. ft.
One acre or less x Over one acre _____
Approximate frontage 85.42 ft.
Approximate distance of building from street
ca 50 feet

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury
Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commission
Date April 13, 1982

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Fannie D. Ricker & Philena Grant

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	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian
Commerce	Military	_____	Transportation
Communication	Political	_____	
Community development		<u> X </u>	

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

This house was built in 1886 as the residence of two widows who moved here from Lowell. Although several architectural changes have since been made, at the time the house was erected, it was typical of those being built in Chelmsford for the average, working class people.

Between 1890 - 1919 it was owned by Horace R. Knowlton, superintendent of the loom department at the Lowell Machine Shop. In 1911 he retired after 46 years service in the "Big Shop" and moved to California to live with a son and daughter.

The family of Charles H. Francis owned it for the next 27 years. Mr. Francis also was an overseer in Lowell.

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

1889 Atlas; 1875 Beers Atlas
Midsx. No. Dist. Deeds: Plan B. M, pl.97(1915); B.188,p.193(1887);
B. 183, pg. 593(1886)

Chelmsford Town Records:Building permit #33(3/13/1954) 1971 Reevaluation sheet; Tax/real estate valuation records

Lowell Weekly Journal: Sept. 26, 1886

Lowell Courier-Citizen: Aug. 1, 1910

Chelmsford Street Directories

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Chelmsford	Form No: 262
Property Name: Horace Knowlton House	

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

3. Alterations

1954

exterior changes:

- front door replaced
- bay window removed
- 2 picture windows installed
- 2 windows replaced
- outside chimney with fireplace built
- 2 porches removed
- 3 chimnies removed

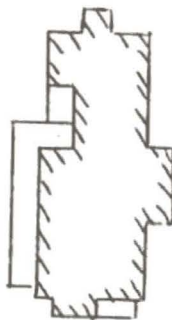
interior changes:

- 2 closets & partition in living room removed;
- 2 doors closed, 1 arched opening made, 1 door & frame relocated

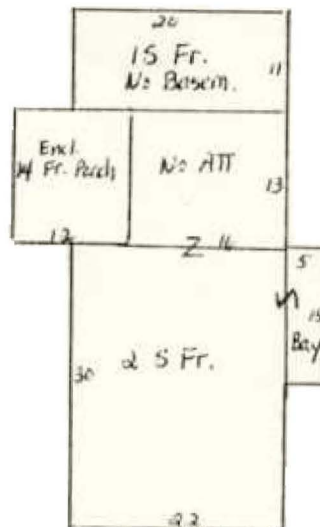
estimated cost: \$2500

builder: W.C. Lahue, 969 Westford St., Lowell

Plan BK.M
Plan 97
1915



1971 Revaluation Sheet



Staple to Inventory form at bottom

59 Billerica Road
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

Bk. 2197, pg. 723	6/10/1976	Ruth A. Gallagher to Gertrude M. Lyons \$43,500.00 land & buildings: part of Lot 5,2,3, on 1889 Perham plan
Bk. 1671, pg. 226	10/29/1964	Versal F. & Marion G. Robey to Ruth A. Gallagher land & buildings: part of Lot 5,2,3 on 1889 Perham plan
Bk. 1057, pg. 404	11/14/1946	Gladys A. Francis, unmarried, Cambridge Versal F. & Marion G. Robey land & buildings: Lot 3 & part of Lots 5 & 2: 1889 Perham plan
Probate Docket #263907	6/30/1945	Estate of Charles H. Francis to Gladys A. Francis, daughter, unmarried
Bk. 956, pg. 365	9/14/1939	Gladys A. Francis, unmarried, to Charles H. Francis land & buildings: Lot 3 & part of Lots 5 & 2: 1889 Perham plan
Bk. 607, pg. 234	6/13/1919	Horace R. Knowlton, widower, to Charles H. Francis, Lowell land & buildings: Lot 3 & part of Lots 5 & 2: 1889 Perham plan
Bk. 218, pg. 9	8/11/1890	Fannie D. Ricker, widow, Lowell, to Horace R. Knowlton, Lowell \$2500 land & buildings thereon right to well on premises
Bk. 204, pg. 348	4/ 3/1889	Philena Grant to Fannie D. Ricker \$1000 $\frac{1}{2}$ part: land & buildings right to well on premises
Bk. 183, pg. 593	9/20/1886	David Perham to Fannie D. Ricker & Philena Grant, Lowell \$225 land

59 Billerica Road

Lowell Weekly Journal:

Sept. 24, 1886 - Dea. David Perham has sold to two Lowell ladies a very eligible building lot on the Billerica road, and the purchasers will at once erect a house for their own occupancy, Adams Marshall having the contract.

May 29, 1891 - Charles E. Parkhurst has the contract to build Mr. Knowlton's house on Billerica street. (Not 59 Billerica: J.B. Drury)

Lowell Courier-Citizen:

Aug. 1, 1910 - Horace R. Knowlton of Billerica street, starts next week on a trip to California expecting to be absent about three months. This his first real vacation since he took charge of the loom department at the Lowell Machine Shop 30 years ago this month.

Oct. 1, 1911 - Horace R. Knowlton of Billerica street resigned on Friday from the Lowell Machine Shop, with which he has been continuously connected for 32 years, 20 of which were as superintendent of the loom room. In all, Mr. Knowlton has seen 46 years service in the "Big Shop." Later he intends going to California, where a son and daughter are now living.



8/7/2004 F. Merriam