

FORM B – BUILDING

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

94/ 368/ 21/ /

Billerica

CLM.423

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

Town/City: Chelmsford

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



View looking northeast from Boston Road.

Address: 122 Boston Rd

Historic Name: Israel Putnam Cider Mill

Uses: Present: Single family dwelling

Original: Cider Mill

Date of Construction: Ca. 1850?

Source: Waters: *History of Chelmsford*

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Not known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Not visible

Wall/Trim: Wood clapboard / wood trim

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Attached garage (post-1943)

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Garage ell added after 1943.

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 1.51

Setting: The house is located in a suburban residential area south of Chelmsford Center, the historic main road leading to Chelmsford Center from the south. Houses along Boston Road range in date from the 18th through the late 20th centuries.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies, Historic Preservation Cons.

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date: March 2022

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

122 BOSTON RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

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

The house is oriented toward the road and banked into the sloping site, which rises from south to north. A dry-laid stone wall runs along the west side of the lot along Boston Road. An asphalt-paved driveway leads from Boston Road past the south side of the house to the attached garage. The front yard is planted with grass with mature trees at the perimeter of the lot.

The 1½-story frame building is symmetrical in plan, five bays wide with a center entrance and two bays deep. The building is clad with wood clapboards and trimmed with cornerboards and a skirt board. The side-gabled building has shallow, overhanging eaves with gable-end cornice returns. An interior brick chimney rises from the center of the roof ridge. Two gable dormers with cornice returns, each containing a single window, are located on the west roof slope. A side-gabled frame screened porch connects the south elevation to the garage south of the house. Windows throughout the building are 6/6 wood sash. The wide, flat window surrounds feature a slender, molded backband.

Square-section wood posts with curved brackets support a front-gabled porch with overhanging eaves that shelters the center entrance. Square-section balustrades enclose the north and south side of the small porch. The paneled wood door is flanked by two small windows, with two larger windows at the outer bays. A hipped-roof porch with square-section wood posts and curved brackets similar to those at the entry porch is attached to the north elevation.

The side (south) elevation contains two bays of triple windows. A pair of windows is located in the gable peak. A projecting stringcourse is located between the first floor and attic of this elevation. The basement level is sheltered by the screened porch.

The garage features an asymmetrical gable roof that shelters a single vehicle bay at the north end and a storage bay at the south end. The wood-shingled building rests on a poured concrete foundation. A *faux* battened loft door is centered above the garage bay, which contains a replacement metal overhead door. The smaller storage bay contains side-hung vertical board doors. The south elevation contains three small square windows.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The house at 122 Boston Road is reported to have been constructed as Israel Putnam's cider mill and was originally part of the 30-acre property at 118 Boston Road (CLM.422).¹ The building's location near what is now called Putnam Brook would have made fresh water readily available for the process.

Jonathan Putnam moved from Bedford to Chelmsford and purchased the property in 1766.² The existing house at 118 Boston Road is reported to have been constructed circa 1817 to replace an earlier house on the property.³ The house and property passed through four generations of the Putnam family:

Jonathan Putnam (1728-1784) and his wife, Hannah, to their son;
Joseph Putnam (1771-1858) and his wife, Anna, to their son;

¹ "Chelmsford...A Historical Tour."

² Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 4, p. 589.

³ Waters: 698 and Putnam: 216.

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122 BOSTON RD

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Israel Putnam (1805-1887) and his wife, Mary, to their children;
Israel L. Putnam (ca. 1839-1891),⁴ Sarah Putnam, and Mary P. Hall.

In 1924, Sarah Putnam and Mary P. Hall sold the house and 30-acre property to their cousin Guy Leslie Putnam (1881-1943) and his wife Esther.⁵ (G. Leslie Putnam's great-grandfather was Joseph Putnam.) G. Leslie Putnam farmed the property and the couple lived here with their daughters, Barbara and Dorothy until 1944. All five generations of the Putnam family farmed the property.

Based on its appearance, the building was likely converted to a dwelling house in the second quarter of the 20th century. A 1943 plan of the property depicts the house with the façade porch and north elevation porch. (See below.)

After G. Leslie Putnam's death, his daughters subdivided this lot and sold the property in 1946 to George and Yvonne Archer. In 1952, George and Yvonne Archer moved next door to 118 Boston Road.⁶ George Archer was vice-president of Ames Textile Corporation, according to city directories.

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⁴ Middlesex North Registry of Deed Book 116, p. 336.

⁵ Middlesex North Registry of Deed Book 698, p. 508.

⁶ Middlesex North Registry of Deed Book 1045, p. 418 and Book 1206, p. 500.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION



View looking northeast.



Garage. View looking east.

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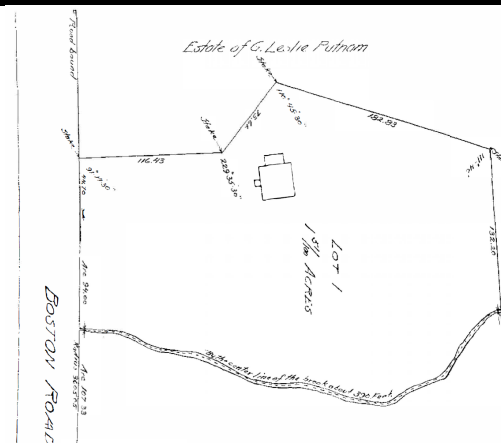
122 BOSTON RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

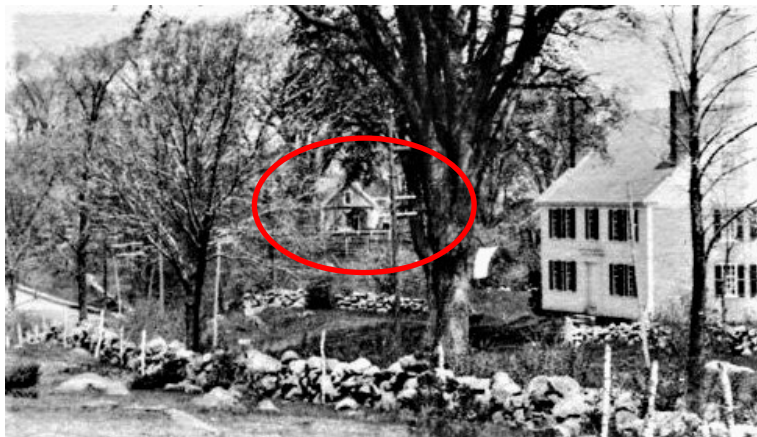
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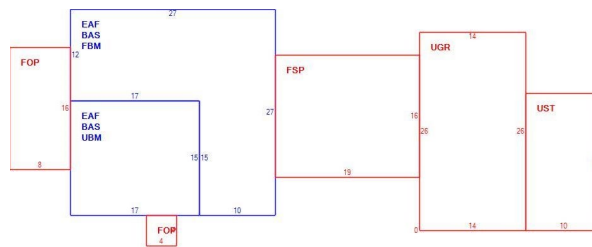
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The property in 1943. Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Plan Book 65, Plan 97.



South elevation of mill at center, as seen circa 1907-1915. 134 Boston Road visible at right. "On the Boston Road. Photo No. 15." Postcard. Arnold C. Perham Collection. Object ID: 2013.2.3046. Chelmsford Historical Society.



Assessor's sketch.