

FORM B - BUILDING SURVEY

12

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:

brick ends, large chimneys, pygid construction, original + woodwork

OR part of Area #

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added see attached sheet

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material see attached sheet

WALL COVER: Wood clapboard Brick Stone Other brick ends

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork

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

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

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 enclosed on south (R) side PORTICO Balcony

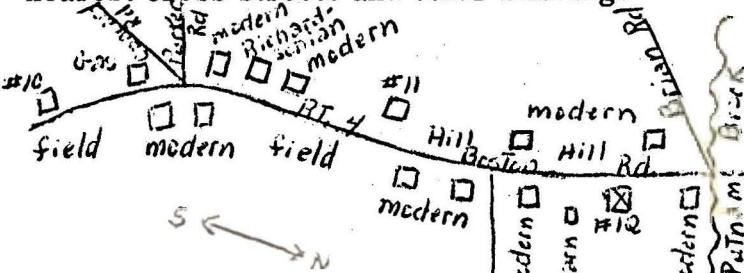
FACADE: Gable end: Front side Ornament

Entrance: Side Front Center Side Details: full length pilaster + 5 lights each side. 2 granite steps

Windows: Spacing: Regular Irregular Identical Varied 5 bay x 2 bay, 6 over 9 panes - all original

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 75
Property has 400 feet frontage on street

Recorder Jane B Drury

For Chilmark Historical Commission

Photo # 1-6 Date 6/20/73

SEE REVERSE SIDE

RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

- 1. Outbuildings 1 large barn, 1 well house, 1 boxhouse of no value
 - 2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal
 Predominant features chick fence on barn - see attached sheet
 Landscape architect _____
 - 3. Neighboring Structures
 Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.
 Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern
- 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)

This brick-end house was probably built in 1756 by Jonathan Parker, a private in Capt. Zachary Wright's Co. in Col. Bancroft's Regt. at White Plains, Oct. 31, 1776. He was called "Trooper Jack" to distinguish him from another Jonathan Parker, a neighbor, who was known as "Hill Jack" (house #11). A mustering-ground was said to have been in a near-by field. The house has 4 chimneys, 2 each of the brick ends, which provide working fireplaces in each of the 8 rooms. The windows are the original ones, with 6 small lights of glass in the upper sash and 9 in the lower. In 2 of the rooms (old summer kitchen on the north side and the winter kitchen on the south side) may be seen the bake ovens and workwork in its natural finish.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

- 1831 map
- 1875 Biers Atlas
- 1955 Open House Pamphlet
- 1917 Waters: "History of Chelmsford, Mass.
 deeds, probate dockets

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: Jonathan Parker
 Deed Information: Book Number 8 Page 377, Middlesex North Registry of Deeds
8 377

Trooper Jock House
134 Boston Rd.

Condition: excellent

The house contains most of its original features. The 8 working fireplaces are in excellent condition and have an interesting variety. The large fireplace in the keeping room was rebuilt by a recent owner; its original granite slab hearth extends 42" out into the boom.

Alteration: roof.

Marks on the 4 chimneys inside the attic indicate that the roof was raised many years ago, possibly from a hip type.

Foundation/Basement: material

Exterior - granite blocks

Interior - fieldstone walls, including the side walls which are 8 feet thick and contain the base of the chimneys (these thick chimney walls look like ordinary walls).

Chimneys: 6

4 - main section

1 - rear ell, immediately behind main section.

1 - shed, behind garage and ell.

Predominant features: clock face on barn (antique shop)

The clock dial was originally located on the 1st Parish Church (Unitarian) in Billerica Center. In 1968 the church burned, but the dial was only charred on the back and was obtained by its present owner and placed on the barn. The clock movement was made by the Howard Clock Co. of Boston, whose factory was in Waltham. It was made about 1865 and was originally installed in a school in Maine. 200 pounds of weights in the cellar of the barn drive the movement on the third floor.



8/8/2004 F. Merriam

The clock dial on the barn was originally located on the First Parish Church in Billerica Center, Mass.

In 1968 the church burned, causing severe damage and became little more than a charred pile of rubble.

The church was rebuilt and new dials installed. The old dial, having escaped total destruction, was only charred on the back. Evidence you can still see. The dial is 10' in diameter. The clock movement here on the first floor is typical of the movements hidden behind the dials on churches, schools and town hall steeples.

The movement was made by the Howard Clock Co. of Boston, whose factory was in Waltham, Mass. It was made about 1865, having been originally installed in a school in Maine.

The pendulum length is 9 feet. The bob weighs 85 pounds and swings in the cellar. 200 pounds of weight drive the movement, via cable and pulleys, which go to the third floor.

Turning the cable drum with a hand crank raises the weight which runs the clock. The drive shaft for the hand assembly extends 20' vertically to the third floor, then via bevel gears and universal joints extends horizontally some 15' to drive the clock hands through reduction gears. Regulating the clock is accomplished by lowering (slower) or raising (faster) the bob on the wooden rod.

Time runs out for Clock Barn

By FRANCES BERG

Sun Staff

CHELMSFORD — The historic clock outside The Clock Barn on Boston Road today reads 3:05 — the hour yesterday when Jack Carpenter, having finally been served the papers cementing the temporary injunction against operation granted a week ago today, closed the doors of his controversial antique business.

"Well, it's happened. They closed us down," he told The Sun shortly thereafter. Carpenter, whose appeal was already launched within the State's legal machinery, intends to fight what he considers charges which should never have been made in the first place.

The situation leading up to the zoning violation charges leveled against Jack and Karen Carpenter seems no less complicated than the mechanism of that huge clock now proclaiming the hour of 3:05.

Jack Carpenter figured the law's so-called "grandfather clause" provisions applied when he brought the property. He hasn't changed his mind since. But as you read this,

Jack Carpenter and wife Karen have cut dead trees

and hay, repainted, re-windowed (partially in stained glass) and improved the decor of the top floor in gallery effect for the antique establishments paintings of venerable age.

Yet Jack has been told by one neighbor the property now looks "worse" than when he bought it.

AMID neighborhood antipathy he says he apparently inherited from the previous owner, Carpenter also now has a zoning problem magnified far beyond that Deibert had to deal with.

Both Peter J. McHugh, Jr., building inspector, co-plaintiff with the Town of Chelmsford, and Atty. Clement McCarty, town counsel, have declined comment on the ground that the case is still in the courts.

"It's not fair if I say anything," said McHugh. "We usually don't talk about cases."

"As a lawyer, I can't discuss it," said McCarthy. "The bill of complaint is in the courts. It's up to the town to prove the charges."

Last week, capping it all, a preliminary injunction came into being forbidding retailing, wholesaling, barn sales, garage sales, yard sales —



Sun staff photo by Lemmie Irvin

The clock stopped at 3:05 p.m.

— yesterday at Jack and Karen business, The Clock Barn, on Carpenter's beleaguered antique Boston Road in Chelmsford.

only the first of which Carpenter maintains he has ever done anyway. The injunction prohibits use of the property as a "riding academy" — which once consisted of a young daughter offering rides on a small pony for a quarter. It prohibits use as a "junk yard," which Carpenter, having items on hand worth up to \$50,000 apiece, says is a charge not even worth comment.

JACK, who had been a guest expert on TV Channel 5's Bicentennial "Good Morning" show of July 2 and appeared again as a news item Friday following his courtroom reverse, enjoyed a groundswell of sympathy from antique and art lovers — from buffs to experts to even competitors — throughout the weekend.

The property, site of an an-

tique business since its ownership by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Woodhead and later their son, Allen, from 1933 onward, is located along a section of Boston Road now zoned as residential. A letter from Allen Woodhead to authorities concerned in 1973 established that only a few months had ever elapsed without some business activity be either his parents or himself.

Clock Barn offered for sale

By CAROL KOPP
Sun Staff

CHELMSFORD—In the face of irate neighbors and stringently-enforced zoning regulations, the owners of the Clock Barn anti-

que store on Boston Road are offering it up for sale as a residence.

If they don't get a buyer for the bright old barn and its acre of land, Jack and Karen Carpenter intend to continue operating the an-

tique store — at least until their zoning dispute with the Town of Chelmsford is settled.

Antiques have been sold from the property since 1933. Whether or not they have been sold continuously is the bone of contention being picked apart by town officials, nearby neighbors and the owners.

The town has sought to prove, in recent court battles, that no antiques were sold there during a period of years. If true, the owners cannot continue operating under the zoning law's "grandfather clause" that exempts previously-existing businesses from the restrictions of a residential neighborhood. However, signed affidavits conflict on the facts.

While the town prepares for further court action, a Superior Court judge has ruled that the business can continue to sell antiques.

They cannot, however, store junk, operate a riding academy, sell wholesale, or run auctions. The town was unsuccessful in stopping the antique sales, but the court upheld temporary injunctions on the other activities.

The variety of charges brought by the town is the key to his own success in court, Carpenter believes. He claims that the only business operating from the premises is retail antique sales. "If you want to call someone a , you weaken your argument if you use six other adjectives to define him," he said.

The charge of operating a riding academy, for instance, stems from their young daughter's practice of charging neighborhood kids a quarter for rides on her pony. The term "junk storage" is simply an affront to the business, he added.

So, for the present, the dramatically-minded

Carpenter has removed a "Closed" sign draped in funeral black from the front of the barn.

Two affidavits supporting the town's argument were filed by Boston Road residents. One is Daniel Hart, father of Paul Hart, chairman of the board of selectmen. The other was filed by Louise Harrington, an active participant in town politics and a local businesswoman.

Both sworn affidavits say that "no antique business was conducted at the premises at 134 Boston Road" between Dec. 21, 1959, when the original owner died, and 1970, when the property was sold.

However, an affidavit submitted by Allen G. Woodhead, son of the late owner, claims that he continued the operation "for the benefit of his estate in varying degrees" until 1970.

Mrs. Harrington has lived on Boston Road since 1909. "At one time," she said, "you could build anything anywhere in Chelmsford. Now you can't and I can see the value of it well."

She did not object to the "low-key" antique business operated by the late Woodhead. But she believes the business has been expanded to the point of causing traffic problems, "an unattractive appearance" and a possible decline in property values along the rural road.

In a letter to the board of selectmen, Town Counsel Clement McCarthy noted the factual discrepancy between the affidavits.

The affidavit submitted by Woodhead "was from an 'insider,'" he noted, and thus "the Court gave it more weight than our affidavits."

The way to resolve the issue of whether the business qualifies as a non-conforming use, he said, is through the testimony of the Woodhead sons.



Clock Barn

Clock Barn owners Jack and Karen Carpenter, in front of their antique shop, have put the building on the

market as a home while litigation is in progress over the building's compliance with zoning regulations.



