

photo here)

FORM B - BUILDING SURVEY

11

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

2. Town Chilmark  
 Street address 155 Boston Road  
 Name Will Jocke Parker House  
 Use: original & present residential  
 Present owner Edward Tyler  
 Open to public no  
 Date ca 1756 Style saltbox  
 Source of date owner  
 Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Architectural reason for inventorying: 4 working fireplaces, 1 beehive oven, wide floor boards, meat hooks inside chimney, beamed ceiling.

OR part of Area # \_\_\_\_\_

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added shed connected to house

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material basement walls dry field stone

WALL COVER: Wood clapboard Brick Stone Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed later addition, contains built-in laundry

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 \_\_\_\_\_ PORTICO \_\_\_\_\_ Balcony \_\_\_\_\_

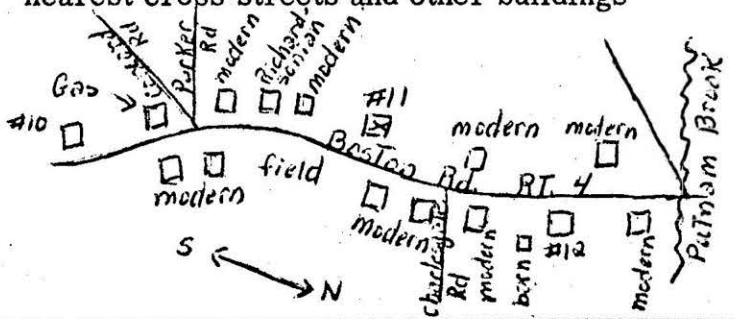
FACADE: Gable end: Front side Ornament \_\_\_\_\_

Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: Enclosed vestibule with full length pilasters each side of door.  
5 Bay Front. 1st story - 1 Large, 1 small behind door.

Windows: Spacing: Regular Irregular Identical Varied 2nd story - 1 Large front, 1 small in recess under sloping roof.

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 70  
Property has 100 feet frontage on street

Recorder Jaret Lombard + Jane Drury  
 For Chilmark Historical Commission  
 Photo # 1-5 Date 6/18/73

SEE REVERSE SIDE

## RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

1. Outbuildings 2 chicken coops, 1 horse barn; all recently built.
2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal vegetable  
Predominant features yard unlandscaped with fenced area for horses  
Landscape architect \_\_\_\_\_
3. Neighboring Structures  
Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.  
Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern Georgian  
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)

The house was probably built by one of the several Jonathan Parkers living in Chelmsford during the mid 1700's. Either he or his son was known as "Hill Jock" (as he lived "up the hill") to differentiate him from another Jonathan Parker, who lived at 134 Boston Rd. & was known as "Trooper Jock" (a Trooper in the Rev. War). "Hill Jock's" house was probably built shortly after "Trooper Jock's".

Willard Parker, son (or grandson) of the builder, owned the house & 50 acres of land for many years during the latter part of the 17th Century, having moved to it when he was about 5 years old. He taught school in Town for 3 years (1821-23) before becoming an eminent physician in N.Y.C. He was one of the founders of the Academy of Medicine & at one time its president. Dr. Parker kept the old homestead until near the close of his life, when its care became too perplexing. In 1879 he wrote, "I love it as my old home, and where my parents lived, worked hard, and died." He died in New York City in April 1884.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

Waters History of Chelmsford (1917)

1831 map

1875 Beers Atlas 1856 Map

Parker deeds & probate records (Jonathan Parker, docket # 38885, 1st series)

## RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: Jonathan Parker

Deed Information: Book Number 31 Page 95, Middlesex North Registry of Deeds

# History buffs lament loss of old houses

By TOM SPOTH  
Sun Staff

7/30/2003

**CHELMSFORD** — The house, old and tired after almost 250 years, sits empty. Its walls are stained, its windowsills are crumbling. A dilapidated chicken coop slowly disintegrates out back, and tall grass intrudes on a stone wall and steps in front.

## Chelmsford

"This is a nice one," says historian Jane Drury.

The Hill Jock House on Boston Road was built in 1756 by one of several Jonathan Parkers living in Chelmsford. Its most famous inhabitant was Dr. Willard Parker — a prominent surgeon, one of the founders of the New York Academy of Medicine, and the first president of the Chelmsford Monument Association.

Hill Jock is slated for demolition, and a developer prepares to put two new homes on the 3-acre lot.

"This house could be saved," says Historical Commission chair Linda Prescott. "It has the potential of standing for hundreds of years more."

Chelmsford's historic homes are an increasingly endangered species, Prescott says. While the Hill Jock House's demise may be a foregone conclusion, the commission hopes to prevent its counterparts

from meeting the same fate.

Chelmsford has seven historic places and a historic district on the national register. Any development on those sites must be reviewed by the Historical Commission.

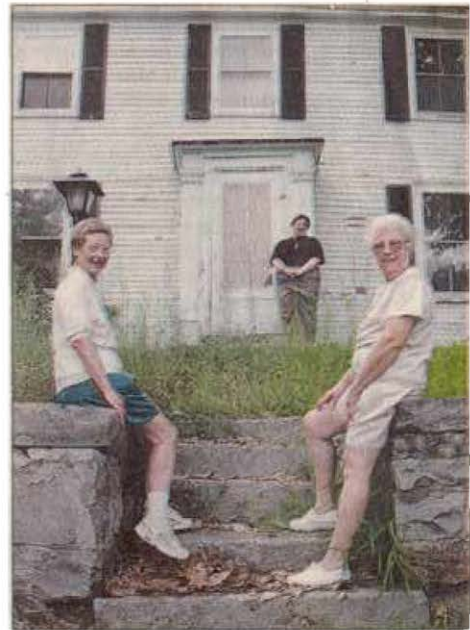
But the town also has 199 properties on the state's "inventory of historic places," 155 of which are houses, according to Massachusetts Historical Commission spokesman Brian McNiff. Local historians need not be informed of development on those properties, he says.

Prescott found out that the Hill Jock House was in danger only when she saw the proposal on a Planning Board agenda. She showed up at the board's meeting and was granted a "demolition delay," a 14-day window to work with the developer.

"I've signed papers for more demolition delays in the last two years than the commission signed in the (previous) 10," Prescott says with a sigh.

Prescott says Chelmsford's delay period is very short compared to other communities. She hopes to extend it to as long as six months. Beyond that, though, few legal avenues are available for local preservationists.

Please see **HISTORIC/12**



Chelmsford Historical Commission members, from left, Jane Drury, Linda Prescott and Torry Gullion in front of the Hill Jock House.

SUN/ZACK SECKLER

# History buffs lament the loss of old houses

**HISTORIC**/From Page 11

"Sometimes we don't like to see it happen, but property owners have rights," Selectman Thomas Moran says. "If they comply with the Planning Board's restrictions, there's not really an issue."

The state Community Preservation Act, adopted by Chelmsford in 2001, could potentially provide funding to protect and restore old homes. But it's simply not feasible to shield every historic building from development, Community Preservation Committee chairman Robert Morse says.

"(The Hill Jock House) has historical significance, and it adds a lot to the town character. I would like to see it stay," says Morse, also a Planning Board member. "But it's not in a historic district, so it's probably a tough sell."

The Historical Commission will probably have to rely on the kindness of developers in many cases — not the kind of odds you'd want to bet the historic farmhouse on.

"Out-of-town developers come in, and they don't care about the history of (the) town," historian Drury says. "They only care about building."

Prescott hopes that attitude is not universal, though, and that property owners will "be creative in their approach to building."

## HISTORIC SITES

Chelmsford landmarks listed in the National Register of Historic Places

- Chelmsford Center historic district.
- Old Town Hall, North Road.
- J.P. Emerson house, North Road.
- Fisk house, Billerica Road.
- Forefathers Cemetery, Chelmsford Center.
- Oliver Hutchins House, Elm Street.
- Middlesex Canal, Canal Street.
- Old Chelmsford Garrison House complex, Garrison Road.

Source: Massachusetts Historical Commission

"You just don't tear them down. You work with it," she says. "Just be sensitive to these houses. Once they're gone, they're gone."

She looks again at the Hill Jock House, a "salt-box" structure with a full front, long slanting roof and beehive chimney.

"It does look very run-down," she says. "But you start to realize that underneath, it's a lovely home. (And) they're not building them like this anymore."

*Tom Spoth's e-mail address is [tspoth@lowell-sun.com](mailto:tspoth@lowell-sun.com).*



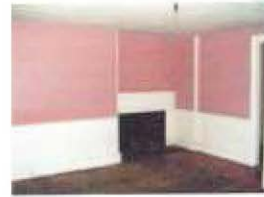
Hill Jock house attic



Hill Jock house attic2



Hill Jock house bath



Hill Jock house bedroom1



Hill Jock house bedroom2



Hill Jock house dining room2



Hill Jock house diningroom



Hill Jock house exterior



Hill Jock house exterior2



Hill Jock house exterior3



Hill Jock house exterior4



Hill Jock house exterior5



Hill Jock house front hall stairs



Hill Jock house keepingroom1



Hill Jock house keepingroom2



Hill Jock house keepingroom3



Hill Jock house keepingroom4



Hill Jock house keepingroom5



Hill Jock house kitchen



Hill Jock house livingroom



Hill Jock house side back room



Hill Jock house side room 2



Hill Jock house sideback room



Hill Jock house sideback room2



Hill Jock house stairs



Hill Jock house understairs



Hill Jock house unknown

# Lowell Sun

## House moving to cause delays in Chelmsford this weekend

By TOM SPOTH  
Sun Staff

**Thursday, April 22, 2004** - CHELMSFORD A historic house's 3.7-mile journey across town will play havoc with traffic patterns this weekend.

The Hill Jock House, a fixture at 155 Boston Road since the mid-18th century, has been uprooted and will be trucked to the historic Garrison House complex Saturday beginning at 6 a.m. The building was imperiled last year by pending development at the site, and the Garrison House Association agreed to take on the relocation costs.

Garrison House Association President Deb Taverna said she expects the house to get through Chelmsford Center, the most difficult part of the trip, by about 9 a.m. She hopes it will reach its destination before the sun sets. If not, movers will seek refuge for the night and complete the trek Sunday.

The nearly 20-foot-wide building will take up the entire roadway, traveling at a top speed of 1 mph, and will require multiple traffic detours.

According to police Sgt. Frank Kelly, drivers will encounter multiple detours while the house lumbers through town.

Chelmsford police officers will join the convoy, traveling a distance in front of and behind the house to close and reopen roads. Two additional police cruisers will be stationed directly on either side of Hill Jock to redirect wayward motorists.

The Massachusetts Electric Company, Verizon and Comcast will also be on hand to move overhead wires out of the way. Hill Jock's height of 25 feet (when placed on the truck) renders it unable to sneak under the power and telephone lines, Taverna said. MassElectric customers along the route have been notified of expected brief power outages, Kelly said.

According to Kelly, the inconveniences are typical for a move of this magnitude.

"I've done a few of these, and they're not picnics, believe me," he said.

Tom Spoth's e-mail address is [tspoth@lowellsun.com](mailto:tspoth@lowellsun.com)

# Lowell Sun

## History Takes the Slow Lane

After more than 200 years on Boston Road, Hill Jock House rolls to new Chelmsford home

By JASON LEFFERTS  
Sun Staff

**Sunday, April 25, 2004** - CHELMSFORD Toby Tyler stood on the side of Boston Road and watched as a part of his life slowly very slowly went by.

Sitting on the massive flatbed trailer that took up both lanes was the historic Hill Jock House. Before it became a cause for preservationists, it was the house Tyler and his six siblings grew up in.

"Let me tell you, I have mixed emotions," Tyler said. "It's a whole lot better than having it torn down, that's for sure."

A few minutes later, Toby's brother David came over. The bedroom they shared with two other brothers was in the corner nearest to them as they stood on the side of the road, and David matched Toby's thoughts.

"It's better than seeing it in a Dumpster," he said.

After more than 200 years of sitting on Boston Road, the Hill Jock House was moved yesterday, crawling its way through town streets and around utility wires. If it was an emotional time for the Tylers, it was a slow one for the movers. The house never went more than 1 mph, and stopped often as crews raised, lowered, or just plain cut as many as a half-dozen lines at a time to make room for the house.

Katie and Barry Yaceshyn stood in their driveway at 41 Boston Road and watched the slow procession go by. With their power cut and the street closed off, they didn't have much to do, anyway. They were given plenty of warning from utilities that they would lose service, and as owners of a house built in 1830 they appreciated the history of the Hill Jock House.

"I think it's great to preserve history," Katie Yaceshyn said. "I'm glad they started after I blow-dried my hair."

The 4.5-mile trip from Boston Road to Garrison Road started around 6 yesterday morning, and the house came to rest at around 5:30 p.m. Traffic was snarled at various points throughout the day to make way for work crews and the house, especially around 10 a.m. when Chelmsford Center was closed for almost two hours.

The Tyler siblings decided to sell the home last year, after their parents who moved into the house in 1957 passed away. The buyer wanted to tear the house down and build two homes on property, but the Garrison House Association and the Tylers worked to save the house.

The Hill Jock House will take a spot near the Old Chelmsford Garrison House, which was built in 1691 for the British.

Garrison House Association President Deb Taverna said the move cost \$50,000, and another \$50,000 will be spent to fix up the house, which needs an exterior paint job, an overhaul of the dusty and empty interior, and a replacement for the third floor, which was lopped off to allow the move.

"I'm very excited. It's beautiful house and a beautiful addition," Taverna said.

Hill Jock will be used as a multipurpose building, housing display space and office space, as well as hosting meetings. Work to put a new roof on the house will begin next week, and Taverna said it will probably be up and running by summer 2005.

Sun staff writer Tom Spoth contributed to this report. Jason Lefferts' e-mail address is [jlefferts@lowellsun.com](mailto:jlefferts@lowellsun.com)



**MOBILE HOME:** Workers move utility lines as the Hill Jock House crawls down Boston Road in Chelmsford yesterday to its new site on Garrison Road. SUN / BILL BRIDGEFORD



# Lowell Sun

## Demolition bylaw back on the drawing board

By **TOM SPOTH**  
Sun Staff

**Friday, April 30, 2004** - CHELMSFORD If not for a developer willing to wait a few months to get his work under way and a historical association with some cash on hand with a need for extra space, the historic Hill Jock house might be a pile of dust right now.

Instead, it was safely moved from 155 Boston Road to the Garrison House complex on the other side of town.

Chelmsford got lucky this time, local historians say. The circumstances surrounding the Hill Jock move a costly and complicated endeavor likely will not be replicated every time an old house is in danger of being torn down. With that in mind, the Historical Commission is moving to ensure that Chelmsford's old homes are at least given a chance at survival before they are flattened by new development.

Town Meeting representatives roundly rejected the commission's first attempt at amending Chelmsford's demolition bylaw on Monday. The change would have extended from two weeks to two months the time in which the commission can review structures slated for destruction, and halving the age from 100 years to 50 of the buildings that are subject to the commission's review.

Representatives, many of whom own homes near the 50-year cutoff, were reluctant to support the change. "Quite a few houses would fall under this very quickly," representative Glenn Thoren said at the meeting. "That's a concern."

In an interview with The Sun yesterday, Historical Commission Chairwoman Linda Prescott estimated that 98 percent of homes in town would not be affected. Buildings deemed "significant" by the commission would be subject to a one-year demolition moratorium, during which the commission could investigate options for saving them.

Prescott said laws in other communities can delay demolition for two or three years, and called the proposal moderate.

Chelmsford historian Jane Drury agreed that the benefits of the bylaw change would outweigh any potential inconveniences.

"We're losing an awful lot of (historic buildings), one after another," she said. "They're irreplaceable."

Drury was excited that the 250-year-old Hill Jock house was successfully moved last weekend, and hoped other old homes could be relocated or otherwise preserved.

"The best option is to have it stay right where it is and build around it," she said.

Many developers might be loath to change their plans for history's sake. But if Prescott and her colleagues get their way, builders will have no choice.

First, the commission must work to educate Town Meeting representatives and other local officials on the details of the plan.

Once any necessary concessions are made, the Historical Commission plans to return for another vote at Special Town Meeting in October.

Tom Spoth's e-mail address is [tspoth@lowellsun.com](mailto:tspoth@lowellsun.com)



Willard Parker





**Aug 2003**



**Aug 2003**



**Aug 2003**



**Aug 2003**















Wm. Lusk's House  
... Chilmark's History  
Old CHILMARK HOUSE  
GARRISON HOUSE  
www.garrisonhouse.org



WE WANT YOU TO  
PLEASE HELP  
GET TO THE GOAL  
www.gofordband.org

Chels Ford



4/25/2004 M. Sanders



27 SOUTH  
ACTON  
MAYNARD  
←

←  
NORTH  
MAYNARD

4  
↑

NO LEFT TURN  
ALLOWED





WE GOT IT THE WAY  
PLEASE HELP  
GET IT ALL THE WAY  
www.gotitthe-way.com

27 SOUTH  
ACTON  
MAYNARD  
←



4/25/2004 M. Sanders



4/25/2004 M. Sanders







