

FORM B – BUILDING

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

112-425-8

Billerica

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

Town/City: Chelmsford

Place: (neighborhood or village):

Photograph



View looking west.

Address: 235 Boston Road

Historic Name: Wallace and May Flagg House

Uses: Present: Single-family dwelling

Original: Single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1931

Source: Deed, Plan

Style/Form: No style

Architect/Builder: Vernon Foster (possibly)

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Rusticated concrete block; concrete block

Wall/Trim: Aluminum siding and trim over wood clapboards and trim; vinyl siding

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Garage (1931); Shed (mid-20th C?); prefabricated shed (last Q 20th C)

Major Alterations (with dates): Front porch removed; Aluminum siding and shutters, poured concrete steps, and railing added (likely ca. 1965); Sunroom addition (post-1965)

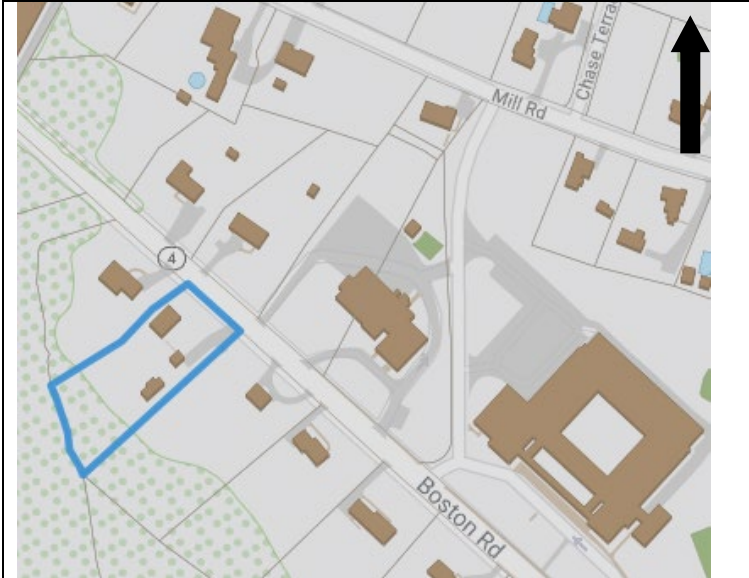
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes Date:

Acreage: 1.08

Setting: Suburban setting on a busy local artery. A church and school, both constructed in the 1960s, are located southeast of the house. Nearby houses to the north, east, and west date from the late 20th century and early 21st century.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies, Historic Preservation Consultant

Date: November 2020

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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 Flagg house is located at the north end of its deep lot facing Boston Road. An asphalt-paved driveway leads from the street to the detached garage, which is located east of the house near the east lot line. Two sheds are located south of the garage near the east lot line. A poured concrete walkway leads from the front door of the house to the front yard.

The 1½-story frame dwelling has a front-gabled roof with overhanging eaves and gable-end cornice returns. A slender, square-section, interior brick chimney pierces the southeast roof slope. The house appears to have been updated in the mid-20th century with the removal of a porch and the application of aluminum siding, likely around the time of the 1965 property transfer. The building rests on a rusticated concrete block foundation. (The northeast elevation foundation has been infilled with unadorned concrete blocks, the appearance of which would also likely date to circa 1965.) The façade contains an off-center entrance and a single bay of paired windows. The half-story contains a pair of small windows in the northeast and southwest gable peaks. The four-bay southeast elevation contains a cross-gabled projection with a pair of windows. The three-bay northwest elevation contains a pair of windows at the north end, and two smaller windows. On this elevation, a gable-roofed projection under the center window protects the basement entrance. The projection contains a brushed aluminum storm door with a jalousie window. The rear (southwest) elevation has been extended with a sunroom consisting of a shed-roof frame enclosure that rests atop poured concrete piers wrapped with concrete-colored foam insulation panels. The sunroom's angled wall consists of a band of fixed-light windows set atop a knee wall. A metal door (late 20th C) and storm door are located at the south end of the southeast elevation. Poured concrete steps with a curved iron railing are located at this rear door as well as at the front door.

The house is covered with aluminum siding over wood clapboards. The trim is also aluminum, including the awning over the main entrance, two curved awnings at south end of the northwest and southeast elevations, and the storm doors. The front door is constructed of wood with a bronze-colored metal knob and escutcheon. Eight small, rectangular lights fill the top quarter of the door; two tall rectangular panels fill the bottom three quarters of the door. Windows throughout the house are all vinyl-clad replacements.

The frame garage is covered with novelty siding with cornerboards and rests on poured concrete piers. The front-gabled building has overhanging eaves. The metal roof is located atop an earlier, asphalt-shingle roof. A paneled wood overhead door with four lights in the top panel is located in the northeast elevation. This door is likely a mid-20th century replacement. A single rectangular window, now covered with plywood, is centered on both side elevations. Window trim is flat and unadorned.

The asphalt-shingled shed roof has close eaves. The remains of a wood birdhouse is located at the roof ridge. The building is covered with vinyl siding and rests on a concrete block foundation. A large, double-leaf metal door is centered in the northeast elevation. The doors, likely salvaged, each contain two lights of patterned glass reinforced with chicken wire above three horizontal panels. A cross-braced plywood loft door is located in the gable peak. The northwest elevation contains a board and batten plywood door at the north end and two vinyl sash windows. The building's aluminum shutters were likely moved here from the garage or house. The southwest elevation contains a single, bricked-up window opening. The southeast elevation contains two small metal-frame windows.

A prefabricated shed (late 20th C) is located immediately south of the large shed. The gable-roof building contains a porch along the southwest elevation. The building is enclosed with strand board pressed to imitate vertical boards.

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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.

In June 1931, carpenter Vernon Foster (1887-1954) and his wife, Elvira (1881-1958), purchased 27 acres located between Boston Road and Concord Road.¹ The deed makes no mention of buildings on the property. It is possible that Vernon constructed the house at 235 Boston Road, as he is listed as a carpenter in the 1930 census. The house, the existing garage, and three other small outbuildings (no longer standing) are depicted on a December 1931 survey plan of the property.² It does not appear that Vernon and Elvira Foster lived in the house, as census records and city directories of the time list their residence as Lexington, Massachusetts.

In June 1932, Elvira Foster sold the house and property to Wallace and May Flagg.³ Wallace Lester Flagg (1885-1974)⁴ married his wife, May Davenport Stone (1887-1952),⁵ in 1916 in Lowell, her hometown. Census records indicate that Wallace and May both completed four years of college, which was uncommon at that time in more rural areas like Chelmsford. Wallace was employed in a number of fields. In 1918, he was working as a construction engineer.⁶ At the time of the 1940 census, Wallace was working for the government as a supervisor making maps for the assessor's office. Wallace indicated on his 1942 World War II draft card that he was working for the South Portland (Maine) Shipbuilding Corporation while his wife and daughter remained at home at Boston Road in Chelmsford. In 1954, Wallace Flagg transferred ownership of the property to their daughter, Dorothy Flagg Watson.⁷ It does not seem that Dorothy Flagg Watson made this her home then, as she does not appear in city directories or voter lists at this address.

In 1965, Ruby L. Joudrey Faulkenham and her husband, Donald G. Faulkenham, purchased the property.⁸ Donald Faulkenham (1934-2017)⁹ owned and operated Don Faulkenham Siding and Doors and worked as a general contractor.

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¹ Middlesex North Deed Book 803, p. 503.

² Middlesex North Plan Book 57, Plan 7.

³ Middlesex North Deed Book 814, p. 245.

⁴ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/25495587/wallace-lester-flagg>.

⁵ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/25495569/may-d.-flagg>. Accessed Nov. 20, 2020.

⁶ World War I Draft Registration Card. Ancestry.com. Accessed Nov. 20, 2020

⁷ Middlesex North Deed Book 1278, p. 547.

⁸ Middlesex North Deed Book 1706, p. 147.

⁹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/179800874/donald-glenervin-faulkenham>

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World War I Draft Registration Cards. Ancestry.com. Accessed Nov. 20, 2020.
World War II Draft Registration Cards. Ancestry.com. Accessed Nov. 16, 2020.

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



Northeast and northwest elevations. View looking south.



Southwest and southeast elevations. View looking north.



Entry door. Façade (northeast elevation).



Aluminum awning. Southeast elevation.

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Garage and shed. View looking southwest.



Garage. View looking northeast.



Shed. View looking south.



Shed. View looking north.

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1931 Plan. Edited to note current property line and extant buildings. Middlesex North Plan Book 57, Plan 7.

