

**FORM B - BUILDING**

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

In Area no.	Form no.
	300 254



1. Town Chelmsford  
 Address 7 Bridge Street  
 Name Martin Robbins House  
 Present use residence  
 Present owner Joseph F., Jr. & Mary Cox

3. Description:

Date 1895  
 Source Lowell Daily Courier

Style \_\_\_\_\_  
 Builder \_\_\_\_\_  
 Architect Charles E. Parkhurst

Exterior wall fabric clapboard  
 right rear

Outbuildings (describe) garage & attached shed

Other features \_\_\_\_\_

Altered see attached Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

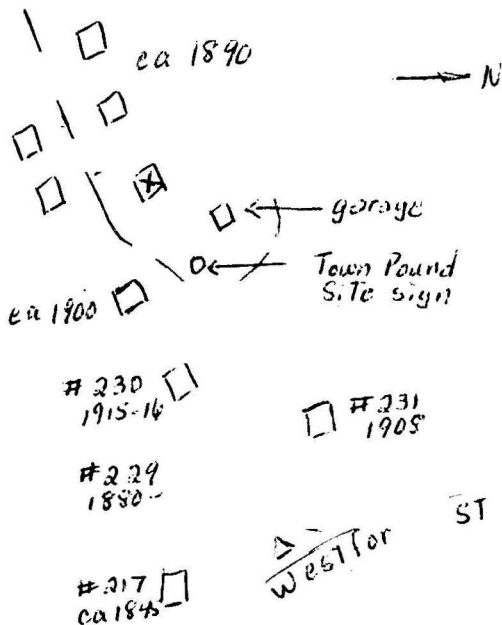
5. Lot size:  
31,035 sq. ft.  
 One acre or less  Over one acre

Approximate frontage ca 240 ft.

Approximate distance of building from street  
ca 40 feet

6. Recorded by Jane B. Drury  
 Organization Chelmsford Hist. Commission  
 Date April 26, 1978

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. \_\_\_\_\_

7. Original owner (if known) Charles E. Parkhurst

Original use residence - 1 family

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

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

Charles E. Parkhurst built this house in 1895 on a portion of the land he had purchased in 1894 for "development". In Dec. of 1895 Martin Robbins and family (2nd wife) became its first residents, moving in before it was completely finished. He didn't actually purchase the house until April 1896.

A native of Maine, Mr. Robbins came to Mass. at 14 years of age and soon after apprenticed himself to a carriage manufacturer in Lowell, later taking over the business, until 20 years later he retired for his health and moved to Mill Rd. in Chelmsford. In 1895-6 when he moved to Bridge St., he was a windmill agent (Robbins & Sweetser), but in 1899 he began a career in real estate; by the time of his death in 1906, he was the senior member of Martin Robbins & Son, which conducted very successfully one of the oldest real estate offices in Lowell, also doing business in Chelmsford.

Becoming very interested in Chelmsford town affairs, he was for several years tax collector and also served as selectman. In 1900 he was a member of the Mass. legislature.

Martin Robbins died of pneumonia in 1906, at age of 53 years. A year later the house was sold to Herbert E. Ellis, another member of the firm of Martin Robbins & Son. Frank and Emma Foye owned it between 1918 and 1936; Mr. Foye was a wholesale flour dealer in Lowell.

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

Middlesex North Dist. Reg. Deeds: Bk. 274, pg. 492 (1896); Bk. 255, pg. 30 (1894)  
Lowell Courier-Citizen: 3/10/1906, 4/26/1906  
Lowell Daily Courier: 8/23/1895, 12/6/1895  
Margaret Robbins Mills: grand-daughter of 1st resident  
Chelmsford Assessors' records; building permit 1954  
Waters, History of Chelmsford, pg. 767  
Chelmsford Directory: 1898/99, 1915/16, 1922

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

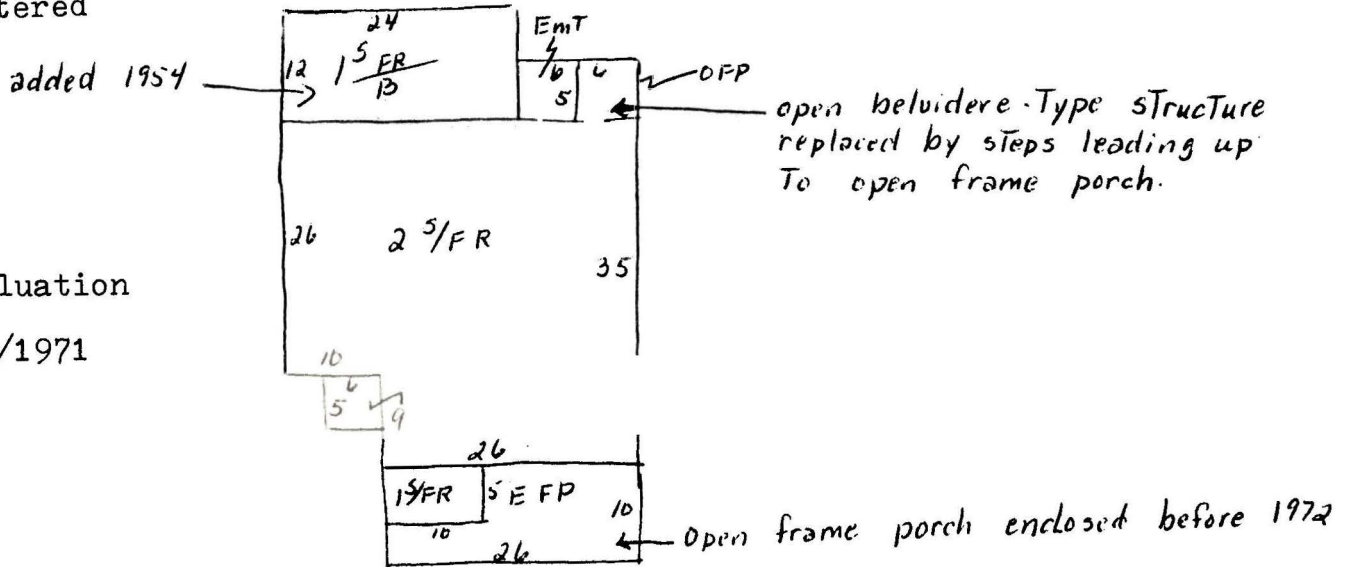
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Chelmsford	Form No: 300
Property Name: Martin Robbins House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below

3. Altered

Revaluation  
Card  
4/12/1971



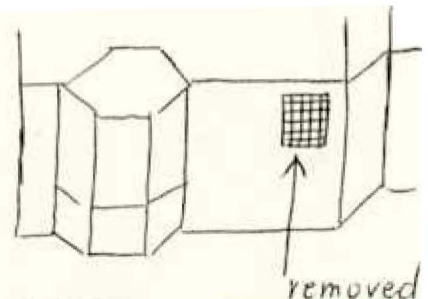
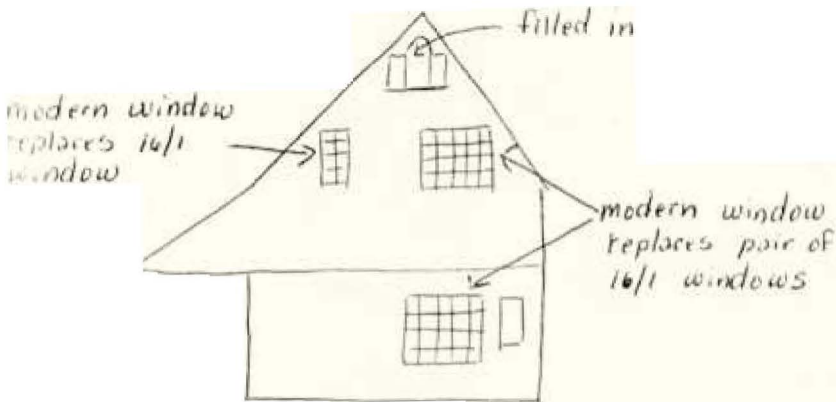
1954: several interior changes, including cellar stairs (location unchanged)

Date unknown:

- filigree decoration along roof ridges - removed
- left turret - 3 curved windows added in roof

right side:

left side:



Staple to Inventory form at bottom

7 Bridge Street  
Middlesex North District Registry of Deeds

1902, pg. 772	10/14/1969	Paul & Kathleen P. Lannan to Joseph F. Jr. & Mary T. Cox \$42,500 land & buildings
Bk. 1826, pg. 140	12/ 6/1967	Kathleen P. Lannan to Paul & Kathleen P. Lannan land & buildings
Bk. 1241, pg. 356	11/23/1953	Nora Conneely, Lowell, to John C. & Kathleen P. Donohow land & buildings
Bk. 1241, pg. 356	11/23/1953	Kathleen P. Donohoe to Nora Conneely, Lowell land & buildings
Bk. 885, pg. 76	9/14/1936	Emma M. Foye to Kathleen P. Donohoe land & buildings
779, pg. 395	8/ 3/1929	Frank W. Foye to Emma M. Foye land & buildings
Bk. 612, pg. 424	9/18/1919	Herbert E. Ellis to Frank W. Foye, Lowell land & buildings
407, pg. 508	7/ 8/1907	Ella C. Robbins, widow, & Edward J. Robbins heir; & William E. Robbins, heir, Washington, D.C., to Herbert E. Ellis 2/3 part - land & buildings
Bk. 407, pg. 509	7/ 8/1907	Louise E. & Arthur C. Robbins, minors, to Herbert E. Ellis 1/3 part - land & buildings
274, pg. 492	4/30/1896	Charles E. Parkhurst to Martin Robbins land & buildings
255, pg. 30	6/30/1894	Irving & Alice Lucy Whitcomb to Charles E. Parkhurst land - lots 1&2 (1890 plan)

## Lowell Weekly Journal

Oct. 7, 1898 - At the recent Republican caucus for a candidate for representative.....Mr. Martin Robbins unquestionably is the logical candidate.

A word respecting the candidate. He, no less than his principal competitor, is a "self-made" man. Born in Belfast Me., about 46 years ago, he left the paternal roof at the early age of 14 to work his own way in the world. When but 16 he came to this state and for a year or more worked upon the farm of Mr. Mace in Tewkesbury. Later he entered the employ of the late Joel Jenkins, carriage manufacturer, near Middlesex street station in Lowell, and served his full apprenticeship. Upon the death of his employer he became proprietor and subsequently formed a partnership in the same business with John H. Swett. About 13 years ago on account of impaired health Mr. Robbins disposed of his interest in the business and by advice of his physician moved to the country, choosing Chelmsford as the place of his residence. He has served the town several years as a member of the board of selectmen, assessors and overseers of the poor, and as collector of taxes. In all public positions he has been a popular official and has given honest and faithful service which will be continued should he be elected representative .....Mr. Robbins is a member of Robbins & Sweetser, engaged in the erection of windmills, piping for heating houses, and general plumbing.....

Lowell Courier-Citizen

Sat., Mar. 10, 1906 - One of the oldest real estate offices in the city is that conducted by Martin Robbins & Son at 90 Prescott street. It has been devoted to the real estate business since 1868.

Martin Robbins & Son have conducted the business during the past eight years and during that time have endeavored to uphold the good reputation of their predecessors and have enjoyed a very large increase of business during the last three years. Starting out with rent collecting and care of property as a specialty the business has grown so that at the present time they are managers of some of the best tenement and business property in the city, acting for resident as well as non-resident owners.....

April 23, 1906 - Martin Robbins, senior member of the firm Martin Robbins & Son, real estate dealers of Lowell, is ~~severely~~ seriously ill at his home on Bridge street. Mr. Robbins was taken ill on Thursday with an attack of pleurisy that quickly developed into pneumonia. A consultation of physicians was held on Sunday and a trained nurse is in attendance.

April 21, 1906 - Martin Robbins is confined to his bed with an attack of pleurisy.

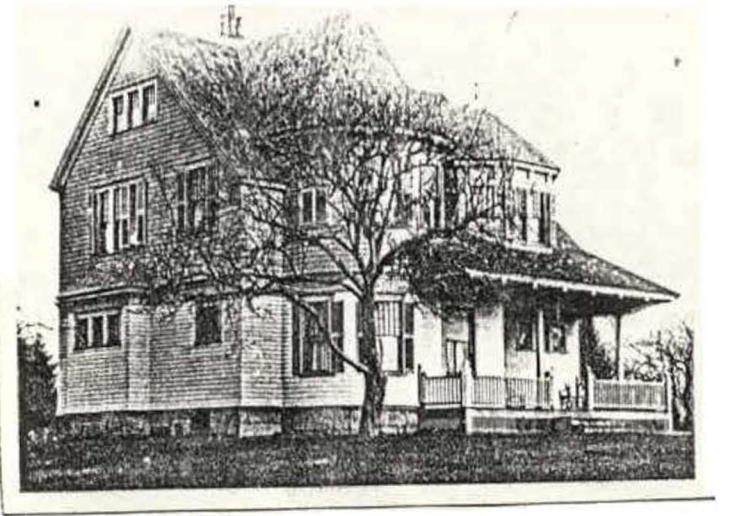
Thurs. April 26, 1906 - Martin Robbins, a well known resident of Chelmsford and prominent in real estate circles in Lowell, died at his home on Bridge street, about 6 o'clock last evening, after an illness of less than a week, from double pneumonia. Mr. Robbins was a native of Belfast, Maine, where he was born, 53 years ago.

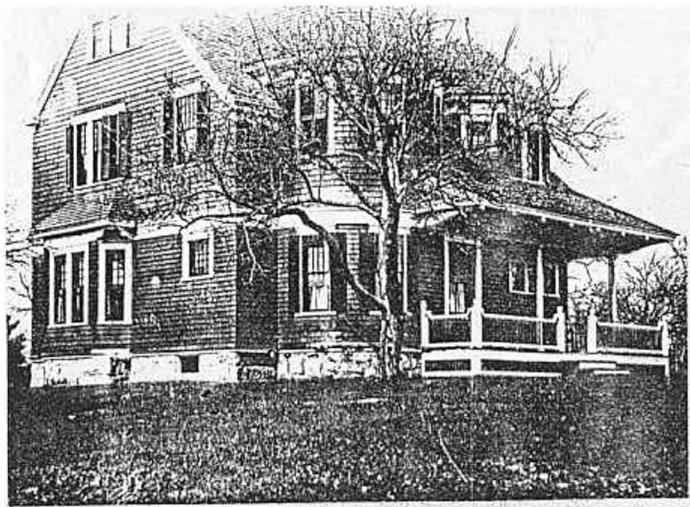
He came to Lowell when 14 years of age, and first found employment upon the farm of Abraham Mace at Tewsbury. Giving up farm life in a short time, he apprenticed himself to Joel Jenkins, a carriage manufacturer on Arch street, near the Middlesex station, and upon the death of Mr. Jenkins, formed a co-partnership with J.H. Swett, for a continuation of the business. He retired from that firm about 20 years ago, removing at that time to Chelmsford for the benefit of his health. He became interested in the affairs of the town and was for several years tax collector, and also served as a member of the board of selectmen. In 1900 he was a member of the Mass. legislature, representing this district.

In 1899, he opened an office in Lowell for the collection of rents, later succeeding to the real estate business of J.B. Trueworthy, which business has rapidly developed and increased under his management.

He was a member of the Chelmsford lodge, No. 218, I.O.O.F.; William North lodge of Masons, and of the Chelmsford grange. His death is the first to occur among the grange members. He is survived by a wife and four children: Edward J., who was associated with him in business and who is also town clerk of Chelmsford; William E., Arthur C. and Louise E. of Chelmsford.













**Shop and windmill at 7 Bridge Street**





9/4/2004 F. Merriam





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