

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

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Town/City: Chelmsford

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



Address: 4 Carlisle Street

Historic Name: Charles F. and Minnie Devine House

Uses: Present: Single-family dwelling

Original: Single-family dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1900?

Source: Census

Style/Form: No style

Architect/Builder: Not known

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Not visible

Wall/Trim: Vinyl siding / vinyl trim

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: None

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Vinyl siding and replacement windows (21st C)

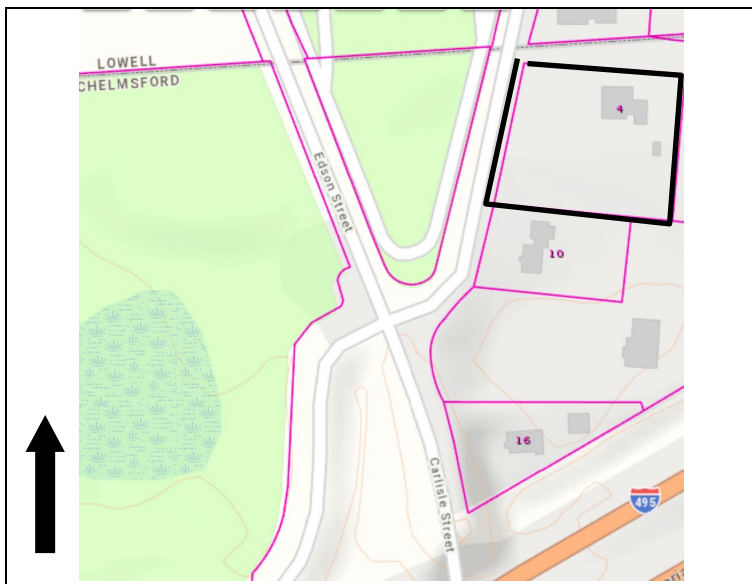
Condition: Fair

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.88 acres

Setting: Residential neighborhood of 19th- and early 20th-century residences. Edson Cemetery located across the street. Highway 495 is located nearby to the south. A large, newly-constructed condominium complex abuts the east property line.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Stacy Spies, Historic Preservation Cons. for

Organization: Chelmsford Historical Commission

Date: March 2022

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CHELMSFORD

4 CARLISLE ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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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 at 4 Carlisle Street is located at the rear of the lot and oriented west toward the road. The lot is planted in grass near the house and mature trees are located along the north lot line. An asphalt-paved drive leads from Carlisle Street toward the rear of the lot and in a semi-circular shape north past the house and leading back to Carlisle Street. A large, newly-constructed condominium complex is located at the adjacent lot to the east.

The two-story frame building has a front-gabled roof with shallow eaves. A slender brick interior chimney rises from the south roof slope. A second brick chimney is located at the rear ell. The side-hall plan building is three bays wide and three bays deep. A small hipped-roof projection at the north end of the façade contains the primary entrance. A small, 1-story ell also extends from the southeast corner of the building and contains a second entrance. A large, 1-story, shed-roof ell extends along the north elevation. The building is covered with vinyl siding and trim. 1/1 replacement vinyl sash windows flanked by vinyl screw-on shutters are located throughout the building. Doors are also recent replacements.

The 2-story, gable-front form and 3-bay side-hall plan provide clues that the building was likely constructed during the second half of the 19th century. The use of detailed physical clues to estimate a construction date for the building was hampered by the building's distance from the public way and the loss of identifying exterior details that could aid the process. Interior inspections were beyond the scope of this survey, but a closer examination of surviving framing, floorplans, and interior features and finishes by an architectural historian could provide additional insights into a likely original construction date and on the physical evolution of the building over time.

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 was likely constructed in the late 19th century or early 20th century by a member of the Devine family; the house does not appear the 1889 map of the area. Deeds, city directories, and census records indicate that the extended Devine family lived in the area between Gorham Street and Boston Road in Chelmsford and Lowell beginning around 1875 and continuing into the 20th century. Devine Street in Lowell is located a short distance north of this property. In 1873, John Devine (ca. 1840-1903) purchased this parcel of land located between Gorham Street and Boston Road.¹ The following year, Joseph J. Devine, likely a relative, purchased the adjoining parcel to the east, fronting Gorham Street.²

The John Devine family is recorded as living in this area of Chelmsford by the time of the 1880 census.³ John Devine and his wife, Ellen Quinn Devine (ca. 1850-1929), were both born in Ireland and had five children who were born in Massachusetts. John Devine emigrated in 1856. Widow Ellen Devine and children and included in the 1910 census as living on Old Boston Road; In 1920 Ellen Devine lived in a house she owned on Carlisle Street. The property that includes 4 Carlisle Road was noted in 1914 to belong to the estate of John Devine.⁴ (The construction of highway 495 prompted the loss of several houses in this area, as well as the relocation of several houses out of its path. More research is recommended.)

¹ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 98, p. 589. The deed involves the sale of Lots # 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34 as indicated on "Plan of Land belonging to J. McCann, July 1873." By R.V. Baker, C.E." The plan could not be located online in the Registry.

² Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 99, page 211.

³ The entry in the 1880 census for the John Devine family appears immediately after that of the John Manning family (i.e., 9 Manning Road). One can infer that the Devine family lived in this vicinity.

⁴ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Plan Book 41, Plan 73.

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In 1907, Charles F. Devine (1873-), son of John and Ellen Devine, married Minnie McCarry. The couple had three daughters. Census records and city directories note the family lived on Gorham Street in Chelmsford in 1910 and 1920 and at 422 High Steet in Lowell during 1926 and 1927.

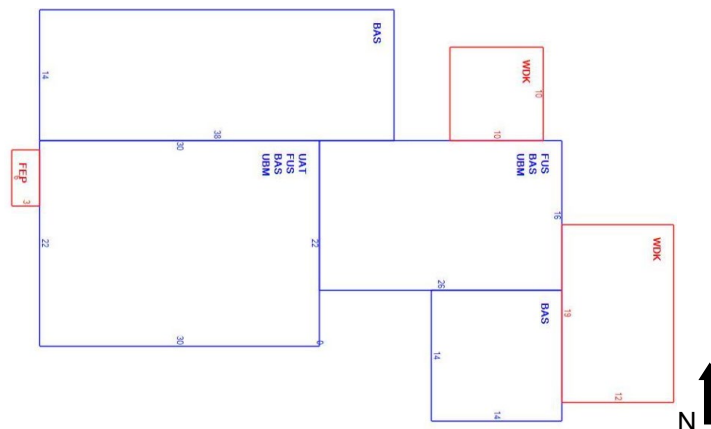
The 1930 census records the Charles F. Devine family as the first house on Carlisle Street. This could be 4 Carlisle that Charles might have inherited from his mother, who died in 1929. In 1934, Charles F. and Minnie Devine mortgaged the property, which included "buildings." The mortgage deed noted that Charles Devine had inherited the property.⁵ The property was foreclosed on in 1939, as were many other properties during the Great Depression.⁶

Mary Kinnal owned the property from 1946 to 1949.⁷ Mary Kinnal owned adjacent properties and operated the Rainbow Gardens Nursery there.⁸ The 1949 sale included a provision that Mary Kinnal removed "all the small evergreens, shrubs, and small trees on the extra lot" (*i.e.*, 4 Carlisle Street) within two years. From 1949 until 1978, Caroline and John DeFreitas owned the property, a portion of which was taken for the construction of Highway Route 495.⁹

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION



⁵ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 845, p. 428.

⁶ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 932, p. 239.

⁷ Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Book 1042, p. 2 and Book 1115, p. 280.

⁸ 1960 taking for Highway Route 495. Middlesex North Registry of Deeds Plan Book M, Plan 587, Sheets 3 and 4.

⁹ Middlesex North Deed Book 1480, p. 218. Parcel 8-TS-8 and Book 2292, p. 62.